

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and the Downtown News



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Gro...s clash over 'Park'

Public review starts as EIS draft released

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Following the state's July 26 approval of a general project plan for the Brooklyn Bridge Park, planners this week announced the date of the only hearing that will take public comment on plans for a waterfront housing, open space and commercial development along the Brooklyn Heights waterfront.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) on Tuesday released copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the park plan at a breakfast press conference in Brooklyn Heights and discussed some of the more contentious points of the development plan.

The public hearing, set for Monday, Sept. 19 (5 pm-9 pm, at Polytechnic University's Diner Auditorium, 5 Metrotech Plaza) nearly closes the state's obligations for public review. Following

the hearing, the BBPDC, a state authority mandated with planning and building the 1.3-mile development from the Manhattan Bridge down to Atlantic Avenue, will have 45 days to collect and submit comments to its parent authority, the Empire State Development Corporation.

Sharing the table with BBPDC President Wendy Leventer at Theresa's restaurant near Hicks Street Tuesday was Kate Collignon, a vice president of the city's Economic Development Corporation, and Edward Applehome, a planning consultant for AKRF, the company that prepared the EIS.

Also present were Tom Monvel-Cohen, a consultant to Michael Van Valkenburgh Architects, and Lee Silberstein, a spokesman for the park designer.

Reading through the draft EIS executive summary, Applehome said, "Most of the impacts of this project are beneficial."

The draft noted the creation of 1,210 new residential condominium



Postcard parody created by Brooklyn Heights resident Judi Francis based on a rendering by Brooklyn Bridge Park architect Michael Van Valkenburgh.

units, 225 hotel rooms, 151,200 square feet of new retail space, and the creation of 86,400 square feet of new restaurants, cafes, and other entries in the study area.

Two buildings, one 95 feet tall and the other 315 feet, situated near the Atlantic Avenue entrance to the park promise more than 900 new restaurants, cafes, and other entries in the study area.

The document states, will create protective "eyes" on the park.

The height of an existing industrial building at 360 Furman St. that is to be converted to condos would reach 224 feet.

The National Cold Storage Warehouse buildings between piers 1 and 2 off Old Fulton Street will be replaced by a 225-room hotel and a building with 150 res-

idential units.

A secondary access road will be built so vehicles can get to the two buildings, which will include an adjacent waterside restaurant, and a spa, and a 300-space parking lot.

North of the Brooklyn Bridge, a two-story 1936 warehouse called the Purchase Building, which currently houses the city's

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Heights-area residents don't see eye-to-eye on development plan

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill residents who support the idea of a waterfront park that would stretch from the Manhattan Bridge to Atlantic Avenue, but who at the same time disagree with the new Brooklyn Bridge Park plan's reliance on high-rise condominium development, are banding together to voice their dissent.

Unlike typical park developments, headed by the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, the 1.3-mile waterfront project is mandated to pay for its own \$15.2 million yearly maintenance. The construction and design is headed by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC), a state authority controlled by the Empire State Development Corp., and the city and state have committed a combined \$150 million for the park's initial development cost.

In December, the BBPDC revealed its plans to build luxury housing as the primary revenue generator.

Dissatisfied by the lack of a stance on the revised park plan by the Brooklyn Heights Association, and cheerleader-like support for the housing-de-

pendent plans by the non-profit advocacy group the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, Heights resident Kenn Lowy has formed the Friends of Brooklyn Bridge Park.

The fledgling group, he says, aims to fill a role he believes the Conservancy has abandoned: providing constructive criticism based on public concerns about the plan.

Calling it "a mix of various organizations and individuals," the group includes members of the Willowton and Brooklyn Heights associations, as well as the State Street Block Association, Cobble Hill Association and other community members. Willowton is an area in southwest Brooklyn Heights near the development site.

"There are a lot of people in Brooklyn Heights who know who the BHA [Brooklyn Heights Association] is, but never really hear from them, so they don't really know what's going on. And a lot of people in the southern part of the Heights are kind of disappointed that the Heights has an association that doesn't really care about anything that happens in their part of the neighborhood," Lowy said.

"They feel it's OK to have all these apartment buildings without even really

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Man sought in sub mugs

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Police are asking for the public's help in stopping a serial mugger they say robbed at least five subway riders, all of them of Asian descent, in stations in Sunset Park.

William Reyes, 39, is wanted in connection with the muggings, most of which have been perpetrated using a knife or gun. Police released a photo of Reyes, who they described as either a black or Hispanic man, age 39, about 5-foot-9 and 210 pounds.

Victims picked out Reyes from a mug shot taken last May, when he was in police custody on charges of interfering with government administration.

He is wanted in connection with at least five attacks in the past year, say police. A knife was used in three of the robberies and a gun in another. Four of the crimes were committed at the Fourth Avenue and 59th Street station, served by the N and R lines.

On April 8, police say, a knife-wielding robber grabbed a woman from behind as she walked through the subway station at 11:30 pm. The mugger stabbed her once on the left leg and demanded she turn over her belongings.

The victim, 34, complied, and the thief fled the station. She was taken to a nearby hospital in stable condition, police said.

About a week later, police recorded a similar crime at the same train station. On April 17, at 5:30 pm, a robber with a knife demanded cash from a 50-year-old man riding the train station. The victim, who was not injured — turned

Subway mugger suspect William Reyes

over his cash and the thief fled the station, police said.

On May 12, a man was again robbed at the same station — this time in the morning, police said. The victim, 48, told police the thief pulled a knife on him around 10:15 am, and he turned over his wallet. The man wasn't hurt and the robber bolted from the station.

Exactly one month later, on June 12, a robber struck at the station in the afternoon but did not pull out a weapon. A stranger, 42, told police he was inside the station at 1:40 pm when a thief grabbed his wallet from his pocket. The robber fled, and the victim was uninjured.

On July 9, a mugger chose to use a gun, and struck at a subway station more than 40 blocks north. Police said a man, 34, was attacked at 11 pm inside the M and R station at Prospect and Fourth avenues. The thief flashed a silver firearm and demanded money, the victim told police.

The man, who was not hurt, said the mugger checked his pockets and fled the station with his cash.

Anyone with information should call the CrimeStoppers hotline at (800) 577-8477.

Harvey's neighbors: Condos

Developer has no plans for a hotel at Ft. Greene site

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A developer that paid \$12 million for four lots next to the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater in Fort Greene plans to build a large-scale luxury condominium complex, a spokeswoman for the developer said.

The representative of Manhattan-based The Clarett Group contacted The Brooklyn Papers after the newspaper reported last week

that the company had quietly bought up and cleared of tenants the properties next to the performance space on Fulton Street at Ashland Place.

Despite rumors that Claret would seek to build a hotel on the site, a use allowed under the current commercial zoning, the source said the developer would instead build condominiums there, which they can do as-of-right by including ground-floor commercial space.

The site could support a 30-story residential tower.

Fort Greene Councilwoman Letitia James, who dealt with Claret on behalf of some of the evicted tenants who lived and worked in the low-rise buildings at 655 through 671 Fulton St., called the company's plans "underhanded."

"I spoke to their attorney earlier on because they were trying to see if they could get away with it," she said.



See BAM on page 14



Johnny on the spot

Johnny Podres, who pitched the Brooklyn Dodgers to a Game 7 victory over the New York Yankees to capture the 1955 World Series, holds the May 8, 1950, issue of Life Magazine featuring Jackie Robinson. Podres stands in front of plaque on Montague Street near Cadman Plaza West that marks the site of the old Dodgers offices — currently Commerce Bank — where Robinson signed a contract making him the first black man to play Major League baseball in the modern era.

Fliers hit Wal-Mart's plans for Brooklyn

The Brooklyn Papers

Calling themselves Wal-Mart No Way, a group of friends, activists and neighbors in Park Slope this week began distribut-

ing spoof ads mocking the mega-retailer's attempts to market itself in Brooklyn.

"The reason we're going about it this way, is we feel it's probably the

most effective way to get our message across," said Richard Thomas, who founded the anti-Wal-Mart group.

"It's the tactic they use," he said, "and we want to fight them in the

same way, basically."

Last month, Wal-Mart executives expressed interest in finding space in Brooklyn to open what might be its first New York City store. They fol-

lowed that with a one-week advertising blitz including full-page ads in local newspapers.

Wal-Mart officials have also expressed interest in finding space in Brooklyn to open what might be its first New York City store. They fol-

See WAL MART on page 14

BAY RIDGE SENATOR HITS SENIOR WITH SUV

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

State Sen. Martin Golden hit a 74-year-old woman with his sport utility vehicle as she crossed a Bay Ridge street against the light Saturday morning, police said.

Golden was visibly distraught and shaken after the accident, which occurred on Third Avenue at 84th Street — within his home district. A former city councilman, Golden, 54, was re-elected last year

to his second state Senate term.

Witnesses said Golden jumped from his 2005 Chevy SUV to try and comfort the bloodied woman and later spent two hours visiting with the woman's family at Lutheran Medical Center, where she was in critical condition.

Hanki Zafirovlos, 74, suffered serious head and body trauma. An update on her condition was not available.

Zafirovlos had attended Holy Cross Greek church with her 70-year-old sister, newspapers said, and was crossing the

busy intersection against a red light, according to witnesses and police. Her sister was not hurt.

Golden was driving up Third Avenue after visiting a gym and, according to police, he didn't see Zafirovlos. A spokesman for the senator, John Quaglione, said Golden passed a Breathalyzer test. He said Zafirovlos stepped into Golden's path just as the light turned green and he accelerated.

The woman fell and struck her head on the street, he said.

No summons was issued to Golden, who stopped his car and attempted to help the woman before police and paramedics arrived, said Quaglione.

Golden remained at the scene of the accident for two hours, Quaglione said.

"It's a terrible accident," he said. "The senator asks the public to join with him in keeping her in your thoughts and prayers. He has spoken to her family and he is hoping that she will pull through."

The Republican senator was clearly upset after the crash, witnesses said. On-

lookers helped him to a corner cafe and got him a cup of coffee.

Golden, a former New York City police officer and a Bay Ridge native, was elected to the City Council in 1997.

In 2002, he won his state senate seat, ousting the Democratic incumbent, Vincent Gentile, who now holds the council seat.

He was re-elected to another two-year term last November. In addition to Bay Ridge, Golden's 22nd district represents a considerable chunk of southern Brooklyn,

including Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, Gravesend, Mill Basin and Bayside Beach.

Golden's police career was cut short by an accident on Sept. 15, 1981, when Golden had said, he was hit by a car while on duty chasing a drug suspect in the 67th Precinct in the area of Snyder and Flatbush avenues. Golden reportedly broke his right arm and had a ligament removed from each leg. Golden remained on desk duty before retiring at the end of 1983.

— with Associated Press

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Caught in bathroom

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Police arrested a man they believe to be a serial burglar who surprised a Lafayette Avenue resident the morning of Aug. 7 and then used a ladder to get inside a Clinton Avenue apartment.

The 33-year-old suspect was arraigned on charges of second-degree burglary, criminal trespassing and resisting arrest, according to the district attorney's office. His bail was set at \$5,000.

Police say the thief used the fire escape to gain access to a second-floor apartment on Lafayette Avenue, between Vanderbilt and Clinton avenues, around 5 am on Aug. 7. But a woman who lives there confronted him as he tried to kick in a window fan and get inside. Police said her cry of "What are you doing?" sent the suspect scrambling back down the fire escape and into the backyard nearby.

About five minutes later, a resident around the corner, on Clinton Avenue, saw a man climbing a ladder propped up against the rear wall of a home nearby. The witness told police he saw the thief crawl through the window into his neighbor's third-floor apartment.

Police were called to the scene and discovered the would-be robber still inside the building, at the corner of Lafayette Avenue. Police caught up with him in a bathroom on the ground floor. The suspect, cops say, struggled when they tried to cuff him.

Three bears burgle

Burglars robbed three apartments in the same Ashland Place building on Aug. 5, first hitting the first floor, then the third, before finding what they were looking for on the second floor.

A resident of the building, just off Fulton Street, told police she left her first-floor apartment at 10:45 am. When she returned at 4:45 pm, she had trouble unlocking her door.

Police said the door's lock had been jimmied and somebody entered the apartment. The woman said the thief rifled through her goods, but didn't appear to take anything.

A man who lives on the third floor reported a similar scenario. The man said he left his apartment at 8 am and returned at 5:05 pm to find his front door open. The lock was also destroyed, he told police. The man said someone went through his belongings, but again didn't steal any items.

But a woman on the second floor wasn't as lucky. She told police she left early, around 5:45 am, and got home later than the others, at 7:20 pm. She found her door was also forced open and someone had ransacked her home.

This time the thief took a souvenir. The woman told police she was missing a Gateway laptop computer, worth \$3,000, a Sony Walkman CD player, valued at \$40, and \$40 in cash.

Car stripped of AC

Thieves snatched an air conditioner and other goods from a car parked on South Elliot Place in the early morning hours of Aug. 4, say police.

The car owner, 23, told police she left the car for roughly half an hour near the corner of Hanson Place. Sometime between 1:45 am and 2:20 am, thieves smashed the two passenger-side windows of the 2001 Honda Accord and helped themselves to the electronics.

The victim, of Gates Avenue, told police she lost the air conditioner — a \$500 Frigidaire — as well as a five-disc Panasonic CD stereo, valued at \$300, a set of speakers, and \$13 in cash.

Stabbed on Myrtle

A teenager was knifed in the side Aug. 5 while walking down Myrtle Avenue, police said.

Police got the call at 6 pm of a 16-year-old Manhattan resident who was stabbed while walking between Hudson Walk and Fleet Walk. The teen told them a stranger had jumped him from behind, sticking a knife into his right side.

Knife-point rob

A man lost his cash to a knife-wielding robber, but held onto his bag and cell phone.

The victim, 26, told police he was on the corner of Lafayette and Washington avenues, near the G train subway station, around 7 pm on Aug. 5, when a stranger jumped him from behind.

The thug held a knife to his neck and rifled through his pockets, the victim said. But when the thief grabbed at his cell phone, it fell to the sidewalk, his attempt to snatch the victim's knapsack also sparked a struggle, police said.

The victim, of Classon Avenue, suffered cuts on his arm from the tussle over the bag. He reported losing \$500 and a weekly MetroCard.

The mugger, who fled on foot, was described as a black man, about 6-foot-1 and 160 pounds. He was wearing blue jeans, had his hair in an afro and had a mustache, according to police.

Gas station rob

An armed robber snatched \$100 from a Vanderbilt Avenue service station, police said.

An employee of the gas station, near the corner of Myrtle Avenue, told police the robber came in around 2:50 am on Aug. 6.

The man opened the front door and walked behind the counter, demanding workers open the register, the victim said. When he told the robber he could not, the man threatened him with a black gun, stating, "Open the register — give me all your money."

The victim reconsidered, and complied, according to police. The thief fled north on Vanderbilt Avenue, riding a mountain bike.

Nab subway robber

Police arrested a man they believe tried to rob another man in the A train station at Fulton Street and Washington Avenue.

Police officers say they saw the suspect running down Washington Avenue around 5 pm on Aug. 6. They found his 34-year-old victim in a stairwell inside the station leading to the train platform.

The victim said he was headed downtown into the first landing, when the robber tried to snatch the bag from his shoulder. The man's shirt tore during the struggle, police said, but the thief managed to wrench the bag free and flee up the stairs to the street.

The victim, who suffered scratches on his face, was able to recover his goods after police made the arrest.

Dog fight

A man suffered a black eye after he tried to intervene in an argument over leash laws.

Police were called to Fort Greene Park shortly before 9 am on Aug. 4. When they arrived, a 55-year-old man told them he was leaving the park about an hour earlier when he saw a man beating a woman for allowing her poodle to run free. The victim said he approached the irate man, near the corner of DeKalb Avenue and South Oxford Street, and "advised" him on the times during which dogs must be kept on a leash, say police.

But the irate rule-enforcer then turned his fury on the victim, police said, punching him in the left eye. The victim said he has seen his attacker in the park several times before.

Not cool

He might have had a month of cool, but then he felt the heat.

On Aug. 2, police arrested a PC Richards employee who, they say, was caught on a video surveillance tape stealing nine air conditioners and a home entertainment system from the chain store on Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

The 42-year-old suspect was arraigned Aug. 3 on charges that he took nearly \$2,000 in merchandise from the electronics store where he worked as a security guard. A spokesman for the district attorney's office said his bail was set at \$5,000 and his case was forwarded to a grand jury.

Officials for the electronics superstore, which originated in Bensonhurst but now has branches all across the New York metro area, did not return calls seeking comment on the incident.

The security manager at the downtown Brooklyn location, told police another employee told him he had seen the suspect hauling the goods away illegally around noon on July 15. The manager reviewed the videotape and determined that the guard took nine separate air-conditioning units, worth close to \$1,100 all together, and a Bose home theatre system, valued at \$785.

Dirty laundry

A man awaiting surgery was arrested when hospital officials found a stash of crack cocaine in his sock, police said.

Police charged the Brooklyn man, 28, with possession of a controlled substance with the intent to sell it, after he was discovered with 14 Ziploc bags of crack on Aug. 7.

Nurses at Brooklyn Hospital Center, on DeKalb Avenue at St. Felix Street, were prepping the man for surgery around 5:50 am that day, and as they removed his clothes, they discovered the drugs in his dirty sock. Police were called to the hospital about three hours later, although it was not clear if the surgery was performed.

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Arrest in Smith Street mugging

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Police arrested a teenager after he and an accomplice allegedly robbed a man at gunpoint on Smith Street in Carroll Gardens.

The 18-year-old was cuffed by housing cops following the Aug. 6 crime. Officer Yeshiya Hiller is credited with the arrest. The victim, 41, a neighborhood resident, told police he was walking on Smith Street, near Nelson Street, around 9 pm, when two strangers approached.

One put a gun to his back, while the other grabbed his cell phone and cash.

The pair fled on foot. But police caught up with one suspect a short time later, charging the 18-year-old with robbery, criminal possession of a weapon and menacing, according to police.

Home trashed
Thieves stole nearly \$1,000 in camera equipment and did thousands more in damage while an Atlantic Avenue resident was out of town, police said.

The victim, 46, who lives near Hicks Street, told police he left home at 9:30 am on July 22, and when he returned, at 4 pm on Aug. 5, he discovered the burglary. He said the bandits stole a 35-mm camera, a lens and a flash, worth \$900 all together, and also vandalized paintings he had hanging and wrecked a leather couch.

Wallet snatch
A woman chatting with a friend on Court Street Aug. 5 lost her ID and bankcards when a thief snatched her wallet from a shopping bag, police said.

The victim, 46, told police she was at the corner of Joralemon Street, at 6:30 pm, when she ran into a friend. She put her shopping bag — which

84/76 PRECINCTS

contained her wallet — on the pavement while the two pals talked.

When she checked the bag as she was leaving, around 7:30 pm, she noticed the wallet was gone, she told police. The victim said she may have stepped away from the bag briefly, but didn't see anyone reach inside.

Young guns

Four teenagers, at least one of them armed with a gun, stole the handheld PlayStation video games of three young boys standing on Third Avenue, police said.

Police arrested a 17-year-old suspect in the Aug. 6 mugging, and are seeking three other teens.

The victims — a 14-year-old and 13-year-old twin — told police they were on the corner of Pacific Street around 5:30 pm, when a teenager rode by on a bike.

The bike-rider turned toward them and pulled out a small, black automatic handgun. "Run your pockets," he ordered them.

That's when the three other teen thugs appeared. Police say they rifled the boy's pockets and snatched two PlayStation games and a pre-paid cell phone.

The young guns then fled down Third Avenue, the victims told police.

Not funny!

Two teenagers pulled a gun on a woman with an iPod, but then insisted the robbery attempt was a joke, police said.

The 34-year-old victim, who lives in the area, told police she was walking on President Street, near Bond Street, around 9:30 pm on Aug. 6. Two strangers appeared, one riding a bike, she said.

One attacker pulled a gun and asked for her iPod, but the

woman refused to give up the popular digital music device, police said.

That's when the would-be robbers laughed and said, "I was playing with you."

The woman said the jokers fled on Bond Street.

No direction

Bandits posing as direction-seekers robbed and severely beat a man in Boerum Hill the middle of the afternoon, police said.

The victim, 30, told police he was on the southwest corner of Bergen and Bond streets, just before 3 pm, on Aug. 4, when four strangers approached.

One of the men asked him for directions. He ignored the request and continued walking and then the thugs attacked him from behind, one striking his head with an unknown object while the other three punched and beat him, he told police.

The robbers then snatched a necklace he was wearing and fled, police said. The victim said the gold link chain with a crucifix pendant was worth \$550.

The victim suffered severe cuts to his left eye, which required five stitches, and cuts on the mouth, police said.

Broad daylight

A woman lost her Coach bag, which contained her passport, to a robber who knocked her down on Nevins Street the morning of Aug. 7, police said.

The victim, 55, said she was walking toward Pacific Street, just before 11 am, when a stranger heading toward her suddenly turned after passing her and threw her to the ground. He wrenched her handbag free and fled on foot, police said.

The woman, who suffered

cuts and bruises to her hands and legs, refused medical treatment.

The bag — a \$300 Coach handbag — contained \$60 in cash, two checkbooks, a cell phone, Palm Pilot, New York State driver's license, four debit and credit cards, car keys, home and office keys, and her U.S. passport, she told police.

She described the attacker as a black man, about 5-foot-8 and 140 pounds, with short hair, brown pants, a brown shirt and blue sneakers, police said.

Sneak thieves

Burglars snuck inside a Van Brunt Street establishment in the early morning darkness on Aug. 2, making off with cash, keys and an iPod, police said.

A bartender told police the establishment, near Sullivan Street, was locked up at 2:30 am. When he came in to work later that day, at 1:15 pm, he found the cash register empty.

The man said the robbers got \$150 from the cash drawer and also took the keys to the register. The bartender also reported that items in the office were disturbed and a \$250 iPod belonging to another employee was missing.

Police are not sure how the thief got inside since the bar showed no signs of forced entry.

Knife-point mug

An armed robber stole \$40 from a woman walking home from a subway station in Boerum Hill late at night on Aug. 4, police said.

The 25-year-old victim, who splits her time between Brooklyn and San Francisco, told police she was walking home from the F train on Bergen Street, just before 1 am. She was between Bond and Nevins streets — less than a block from her home — when the robber rode up on a BMX bike.

The man said, "Give me your money," the woman told police. When she refused, he

flushed a kitchen knife and said, "You see this knife?"

That prompted the victim to turn over her wallet, but she asked the robber to "at least give me my wallet back," police said. The thief removed \$40 and tossed the billfold back.

"Walk the other way, don't follow me," the thief said, before he fled south on Nevins Street, police said.

Train robbers

A trio of thugs beat and robbed a man on a northbound C train as it pulled into the Jay Street/Borough Hall station the evening of Aug. 4.

Police say the attackers also yelled racial slurs at the man.

The victim, 35, told police he was on the train at 9:35 pm, when the three black robbers approached. One man punched him in the face, while the other man shouted racial slurs at the white victim. The third attacker, a woman, helped them

snatch \$32 and the victim's backpack, which was later recovered.

The robbers fled when the train reached Jay Street.

The victim described his attackers as follows: a black man, about 5-foot-11 and 160 pounds, wearing black pants, a white shirt and a white skull cap; a black man, about 5-foot-11 and 160 pounds, in black pants and a black shirt; and a black woman, about 5-foot-2, with a shaved head, blue pants and a pink shirt.

In and out

A woman left her car parked on Livingston Street downtown for less than half an hour the afternoon of Aug. 4, but it was long enough for break in and grab her valuables from the vehicle, police said.

The victim said she left the 2007 Lincoln locked when she left it 3 pm. But when she returned to the vehicle, parked near Boerum Place, at 3:30 pm, her belongings were gone, she told police.

The list of items reported stolen included a \$250 Nextel PDA, a \$50 handbag, several credit cards, a \$300 pair of eyeglasses, her New York City license and a Taxi and Limousine Commission license, say police.

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Chamber plan to insure small biz workers

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce this week announced a borough-wide comprehensive program to provide small businesses currently without health insurance a chance to cover their employees.

The plan, known as Brooklyn HealthWorks will offer health coverage options to businesses that have two to 50 employees, have 30 percent of their employees earning less than \$34,000 annually, and that have not provided comprehensive health insurance coverage to their employees in the preceding 12 months.

By enrolling in the program, small businesses will

be able to afford insurance for their employees at the reduced cost of \$157 to \$169 per employee per month, provided the employer enrolls in the program, pays over half the costs and at least 50 percent of their employees enroll.

Though the plan officially launched last year under the same name, only six hospitals accepted it, patients had a choice of just a dozen doctors, and few businesses were aware of, or enrolled in it. Now there are 7,200 physicians within the network and nearly all of the hospitals in Brooklyn will accept the insurance.

With the launch of the new program, which began Aug. 1, comes a partnership with HealthPass, which will market the program to help



Marjorie Cadogan, executive director of the Mayor's Office of Health Insurance Access, and Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott announce the new small business plan at Long Island College Hospital.

the small businesses they work with determine their eligibility.

Group Health Inc. (GHI), the program's provider network, is a statewide not-for-profit insurer that will join with the Brooklyn Chamber to administer the program.

The new program was announced at Long Island College Hospital in Cobble Hill Tuesday morning by Chamber President Kenneth Adams, Deputy Mayor Dennis M. Walcott and Frank Branchini, president and CEO of GHI.

"Brooklyn HealthWorks is for the currently uninsured person," said Kessler. "Other options are to be devised to help. This is the second step in creating a brighter path for Brooklyn," he said.

"It started with the borough president's office, by

working with providers in Brooklyn, then we started bringing more people in, and going out into more communities," he said.

While the program takes great pains to include the previously uninsured and businesses that hadn't insured their workers before, it does not offer enrollment to companies that had only paid a portion of its employees' insurance costs, or to employees who may be underinsured for their needs.

"Brooklyn HealthWorks is not the solution for the problem of every working uninsured person," said Kessler. "Other options are to be devised to help. This is the second step in creating a brighter path for Brooklyn," he said.

"We knew there are a great number of businesses

that could not previously afford health insurance."

The Mayor's Office of Health Insurance Access (MOHIA), which "works to increase access to and improve health insurance for New Yorkers and enroll all eligible residents in public health insurance," a press release announcing the program described, worked with the Chamber to coordinate the new program.

"I know this program is extremely important, and if these individuals didn't have coverage it costs the city more money," Walcott said.

"As a result of the leadership of the Chamber this is one of the most unique projects as far as the comprehensiveness of the area it covers, at keeping health care and premiums at a manageable level."

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City to buy Coney Island 'Carousel'

Associated Press

The city will buy the historic Bishoff & Brienstein Carousel in Coney Island for \$1.8 million, in a deal that will keep the merry-go-round's hand-carved horses from bolting their Surf Avenue stable, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced Tuesday.

The McCullough family, which has owned the carousel since 1973, was planning to auction it on Wednesday absent a deal with the city.

The agreement reached with the McCullough family ensures that this remarkable part of Coney Island's rich history will remain where it belongs for the enjoyment of future generations," Bloomberg said outside the carousel arcade Tuesday, where he was joined by Borough President Marty Markowitz and Coney Island Councilman Domenic Recchia.

The agreement calls for the city to acquire the carousel and after restoration to return it for public use.

The carousel has 50 wooden horses, two chariots, a band organ and a brass ring machine.

In May, a rough draft of redevelopment

plans for Coney Island indicated that the carousel would play a prominent role in the revitalization efforts.

Kate Collignon, a special projects coordinator with the city Economic Development Corporation, said at a May 3 meeting that the ride was slated for a move to the boardwalk, where it would act as a centerpiece attraction.

Manufactured in Coney Island in 1919, the carousel was transported to a park in New Jersey, where it stayed until 1932, when it was planted inside an arcade on Surf Avenue at West 12th Street.

Over several decades, the carousel remained a jewel of the Saltzstein family, who operated it until July 2001, when James McCullough, already a co-owner, purchased the storefront after Mike Saltzstein, its last operator, died.

During its heyday, Coney Island had more than 25 wooden carousels, of which only the B&B Carousel remains.

"Coney Island is the ultimate in American character and fun — the whole world knows it," said Borough President Marty Markowitz. "By ensuring a permanent place for the carousel here in Coney Island, Brooklyn has grabbed the brass ring!"



Borough President Marty Markowitz, flanked by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, announces Tuesday that the city will purchase Coney Island's B&B Carousel.



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THE BROOKLYN PAPERS

BWN 5

Tax plan is said to be used as mayor's own slush fund

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

The Bloomberg administration illegally diverted more than \$22 million in city funds, using the money as a slush fund to further the agenda of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, city Comptroller William Thompson charged this week.

This was possible because of the lack of accountability in a financing scheme known as PILOTS—payments in lieu of taxes—meant to assist so-called economic development projects.

Two big Brooklyn developments—Atlantic Yards and Brooklyn Bridge Park—are each largely dependent on PILOTS like the one that Thompson's audit says are rolled with a lack of accountability.

Thompson said that \$22.1 million in payments made between 2002 and 2004 went straight to the city Economic Development Corporation. He said the EDC illegally distributed the money to causes driven by the mayor's agenda, including \$8.4 million for a new headquarters for the New York Stock Exchange (which fell through), \$7 million for cancer research at NYU, and \$1 million for the city's police museum, and then half a million dollars paid to consultants on the failed effort to build a new football stadium for the Jets on Manhattan's West Side.

In addition, Thompson found \$59.4 million that would past the 30-day retention deadline by the city's Office of Management and Budget, which is chartered to deposit PILOT payments into the city treasury, and a total of \$2.1 million was lost to the city from payments not collected by the Finance Department.

"We were surprised to find that this amount of money had been diverted without any oversight," said Thompson. The PILOT program, which allows project developers to offer payments in lieu of taxes for the publicly owned property on which their development is built.

"We regret the error."

The Brooklyn Papers strives for accuracy, but sometimes mistakes are made. In such cases, readers are urged to contact Editor Neil Slocum at (718) 634-6150, ext. 119, by e-mail at letters@brooklynpapers.com or by fax at (718) 634-6278.

is susceptible to costly flaws and misuse, the audit charges.

A bill passed by the state Legislature in June allows the redirection of taxes collected from property owners within Brooklyn Bridge Park's development to a PILOT program whose proceeds would go to pay the project's operating expenses.

So far, this would only benefit the developer of a former Wachover Bible & Tract Society book and audio distribution plant at 360 Furman St., but critics say the bill expedites the process for the creation of other housing by private developers in the park, which is mandated to pay its own maintenance.

In meetings this year, the park planners have said that revenue from 360 Furman St. could cover as much as 30 percent of Brooklyn Bridge Park's \$19.7 million yearly operating costs, or \$6.5 million.

For developer Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards project, on a six-block stretch of Prospect Heights emanating from Flatbush and Atlantic avenues, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the city, state and Forest City Ratner Companies committed the project to the PILOT program.

The MOU document commits to exploration of a variety of subsidized mortgages, tax breaks, and the creation of bonds through the untaxed PILOT program.

As pointed out last March by Councilwoman Letitia James, in whose district the project would be located, the document outlined the creation of a Local Development Corporation that would issue bonds to help pay for the project's construction. The bonds would be paid for through PILOTs, which would go directly back into the project's LDC.

This week, James, a fervent opponent of the Atlantic Yards plan, said she hadn't yet read the Thompson audit, but commented, "PILOTs will now be given the oversight of the City Council," in response to the audit's findings that the redirected funds had bypassed the city's normal budget process.

On June 29, the City Council passed legislation that would prevent the use of PILOTs without approval from the council. Mayor Michael Bloomberg vetoed the bill, but it was put through as part of budget negotiations between the mayor and Council Speaker Gifford Miller.

Miller, a supporter of Ratner's Atlantic Yards plan, but an opponent of the West Side Jets stadium plan, both of which used PILOTs in similar ways, called the legislation "a victory for New York's taxpayers, because it assures that every public dime spent goes through the publicly elected legislature."

In his statement, Thompson explained that the PILOTs were

contained in lease agreements between the city and property owners, and were intended to offer owners property tax relief in hopes of stimulating job growth, enticing new developments in depressed areas, and continuing to expand businesses in the city that might otherwise relocate.

"Under these arrangements, property owners are exempt from paying real property taxes. Instead, they pay an amount prescribed by the agreement that is generally less than the property tax," wrote Thompson.

A spokeswoman for the Empire State Development Corporation, which will oversee the development of both the Atlantic Yards and Brooklyn Bridge Park projects, said she didn't think the PILOTs for either project would be subject to city review.

Spokeswoman Deborah Wetzel noted that both projects were automatically eligible for PILOTs, not chosen for them.

"What you need to understand is that when property is owned by the government, you're exempt from taxes," she said. "You come in and develop, and then you pay the PILOT." She added that as a state-run public authority, the ESDC is "entitled to charge the full payment of taxes," despite PILOT status.

The EDC responded to Thompson's audit, saying, "Based on the analysis by the Corporation Council, both EDC and the Industrial Development Agency, which oversees PILOT issuance) believe that their treatment of PILOT funds is appropriate and in accordance with the law."

The city Law Department did not return calls asking what recourse taxpayers had against the city for PILOT payments that had been diverted, and Thompson's office had little to offer on that front.

"Our job is to make recommendations," said Thompson spokeswoman Angelica Crane. "We're very hopeful that the city's agencies will address the concerns that we've raised."

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Getting it right...

In the Aug. 6 article headlined "13th Hights 'urf' war," Roy Vancino was characterized as a "former member of Community Board 2."

Vancino remains an active member of Community Board 2. We regret the error.

The Brooklyn Papers strives for accuracy, but sometimes mistakes are made. In such cases, readers are urged to contact Editor Neil Slocum at (718) 634-6150, ext. 119, by e-mail at letters@brooklynpapers.com or by fax at (718) 634-6278.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 17th day of February, 2005, bearing the Index Number N030160205, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Nazir Mohamed Bishara. My present name is: Mohammed Nazir Hassan Bishara. My present address is 245 Clark Road, 1st Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11218. My place of birth is in Repide, Bangladesh. My date of birth is April 6, 1962. BP12

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 20th day of July, 2005, bearing the Index Number N050712, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Ricardo Joshua Ramon. My present address is 1227 Nutwood Avenue, #26, Brooklyn, New York 11226. My place of birth is in Newark, New Jersey. My date of birth is April 15, 2001. BP12

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 8th day of August, 2005, bearing the Index Number N03036365, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Claudia Nator Benavidez. My present name is: Claudia Claudia Benavidez. My present address is 100 Henry Street, Apt. 109, Brooklyn, New York 11201. My place of birth is in Silver Spring, Maryland. My date of birth is August 15, 1964. BP12

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 6th day of July, 2005, bearing the Index Number N030660205, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Felicia Michael. My present name is: Felicia Michael. My present address is 443 Westbury Avenue, #24, Brooklyn, New York 11206. My place of birth is in Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is October 31, 1984. BP12

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 19th day of July, 2005, bearing the Index Number N050782055, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Sila Joseph. My present name is: Chung Da Yang. My present address is 1901 75th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215. My place of birth is in Taipei, Taiwan. My date of birth is March 31, 1987. BP12

Notice is hereby given that a License number 116282B for Chevrolet sale of beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer at retail in a grocery store under the alcoholic beverage control law at Santa Ana Cafe & Grocery Corp. located at 171 Irving Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237. BP12-31

Notice is hereby given that a License, number 0718061165524252 for on premises beer, liquor and/or wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, liquor and/or wine, as the case may be at retail in a hotel, club, restaurant, venue, or other type of establishment, as case may be under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 270 Third Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, 11203 for on-premise consumption. BP12-31

NOTICE OF SALE. SUPREME COURT, KINGS COUNTY. MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. ACTING SOLELY AS NOM. PEE FOR AMERICAN MORTGAGE EXPRESS CORP., PEE vs. EDWIN BROCKEL, et al., Debt. Index #04-24658. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated July 7, 2005, I will sell at public auction on June 26th at the Kings County Supreme Court, 260 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. via 51 Rochester Ave., Brooklyn, NY via Section 06, 1105-1105-1105. Any amount of bid in excess of \$423,318.41 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of that judgment and terms of sale. GREGORY M. LAFRANCO, Referee. EICHEN FRENKEL & WEISMAN, LLP Attys. for PEE, 20 West Main St., Sayville, NY 11785. F031-34

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HEALTH, MIND & BODY

NY Methodist unveils new pediatric unit

New York Methodist Hospital

New York Methodist Hospital recently unveiled its new pediatric unit at a ceremony held on the third floor of the hospital's Carington Pavilion.

The new floor features 15 bright and airy carpeted patient rooms designed specifically for children. Each one has its own state-of-the-art hospital bed, window and bathroom. In fact, a tour of the new facility feels more like walking around a nice hotel than a hospital floor.

Each room also features plenty of space for visitors, and a sofa with a pull-out bed for parents who wish to stay with their children. There's even a dedicated room just for parents. "The floor was designed with the comfort of our young patients in mind, as well as that of their parents," said Pramod Narula, MD, chief of pediatrics.

The unit also features a child-friendly playroom decorated in festive colors. Familiar movie characters adorn the walls, providing kids with a friendly face no matter where they turn. There is a physicians' lounge and nurses lounge. A new, well-lit nurse desk serves as the centerpiece of the floor.

The unit has a five-bed state of the art pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), staffed by pediatric intensivists, which houses equipment specifically designed for the treatment of children.

"On the new floor, each patient will have their own room, as well as access to the latest equipment used in diagnosis and treatment," said Dr. Narula.

For instance, each room is equipped with instruments that allow physicians to per-

form a diagnostic procedure known as video EEG used in the treatment of seizures.

"The accessibility of such in-room equipment eliminates the need to move patients to other areas of the hospital for certain diagnostic tests," said Joanne Ruggiero, R.N., the nurse manager of the pediatric floor.

The new pediatric floor at New York Methodist Hospital is just another example of the institution's commitment to providing the highest quality of care for our patients," said Dr. Narula at the unveiling ceremony.

Volunteer honored

Fred Moore recognized for service to Maimonides

Maimonides Medical Center

Maimonides Medical Center volunteer Fred Moore was among 94 volunteers honored by the United Hospital Fund at its 12th annual Hospital Auxiliary and Volunteer Achievement Awards Ceremony at the Waldorf-Astoria.

According to Maimonides President and CEO Pamela Brier, "Fred Moore is a shining example of New Yorkers at their best. He cares about the well-being of others, and puts that caring into action."

Mr. Moore's many selfless acts are being recognized by the United Hospital Fund.

"Volunteers play a vital role in New York City's healthcare delivery system," added James R. Tallon, Jr., Fund president. The honorees were chosen for their extraordinary service from among New York City's more than 50,000 healthcare volunteers.

Fred Moore is a familiar and welcome face at Maimonides. He is part of the Case Management Department, where he escorts social workers to home visits and does home assessments.



Fred Moore

ments. He also helps patients with paperwork and escorts them to nursing homes and government agencies.

Mr. Moore was born on a farm in Virginia in 1934, the youngest of 15 children, and describes his parents as "happo folks." After retiring from the shoe retail business, he came to Maimonides in 1993. He has volunteered more than 17,000 hours to the Medical Center.

"I enjoy what I do," says Mr. Moore. "I do it because I want to. I enjoy working with

everyone."

According to his supervisors, Mr. Moore puts patients first, is always eager to help with whatever is needed, and embodies family values, a strong work ethic and integrity.

"Most people I meet in my job want a shoulder to cry on and an ear to listen to what they have to say," he explains. "To do for people is a great thing, and it's part of the Maimonides policy."

In addition to his position at Maimonides, Mr. Moore is an ordained deacon in his church. He resides in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. Mr. Moore has 9 children, 37 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 13, 2005

Life in the farce lane

Park Sloper's new musical takes aim at America's SUV love affair

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Park Slope journalist Gersh Kuntzman takes aim at America's favorite sport — driving huge, gas-guzzling vehicles — and the governmental policies that support it in his new musical, "SUV: The Musical!"

Kuntzman is an editor and rewrite man for the New York Post, but it was while he was also a columnist for Newsweek, from 2001 until this year, that he got the inspiration for "SUV: The Musical!," one of 200 works selected from 800 entries in this month's New York International Fringe Festival in Manhattan.

Kuntzman wrote a general interest column about American topics where he says he mostly "tried to give a New Yorker's take on being stuck with the rest of this country."

"Most of America lives in this bizarre world of big cars, huge restaurant portions and isolation from their fellow Americans," Kuntzman told GO Brooklyn. "That's why the SUV was the perfect metaphor."

America's obsession with quality prompted "Bigger Is Better," the opening number in "SUV: The Musical!," "Have you seen the Pentagon? It's not some little fort! Or the cinnamon buns they're selling at your hometown mall food court? No winter storm is worthy 'til we're under tons of snow! We even love the deficit, let's watch those trillions grow!"

But when Kuntzman wrote about SUVs in his column, he found they were the "single, biggest hot-button issue."

"I found that whenever I wrote about SUVs, it would generate so much hate mail from owners of SUVs who regarded it as a birthright that they should be able to drive whatever they wanted to," says Kuntzman, who covered the Brooklyn Cyclones for The Brooklyn Papers from 2001 to 2003. "At the same time, I would get letters from environmentalists who would make their own vehement, dogmatic arguments."

"SUV: The Musical!" is a tongue-in-cheek love story, Kuntzman describes the plot as "boy-meets-girl, boy designs a really big SUV for girl, boy loses girl to an environmental activist, boy is sentenced to death for crimes against humanity."

The musical follows hero environmental-



Test drive: Playwright Gersh Kuntzman (left, with actor Jerry Miller), who penned "SUV: The Musical," prepares to career wildly into the New York International Fringe Festival on Saturday.

THEATER

Neo-Strick Theater presents "SUV: The Musical" at the New York International Fringe Festival Aug. 13 at noon, Aug. 15 at 7:45 pm, Aug. 17 at 4 pm, Aug. 24 at 10:30 pm and Aug. 27 at 8:15 pm at The Village Theater, 150 Bleecker St. at Thompson Street in Manhattan. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call (212) 279-4488 or visit www.ticketweb.com.

ist Max Blank (Kenny Wade Marshall, of Sunset Park) as he takes on a double-dealing Saudi sheik and two randy crash test dummies in an effort to foil Behemoth Motor's plot to destroy America. His task, however, is complicated when he falls in love with Sarah, the wife of the evil SUV designer Dick Johnson.

The final resolution answers such questions as: Does Max end up with Sarah? Does the new Behemoth Destroyer revive America's flagging auto industry? Does Saudi ambassa-

dor Bindar al-Subhai al-Mohammed ("Call me Al") al-Quarzi succeed in driving up oil prices to \$5 per gallon? And most important: do the crash test dummies find true love?

Along the way, there's "political intrigue, drama, suspense, laughs and chills," says Kuntzman.

Beneath all the fun is a satire on America, a country Kuntzman thinks has "gone down the wrong road — the road of waste and inefficiency and a belief that our nation is always right." For Kuntzman, the SUV is a "great symbol of our nation now."

"SUV: The Musical!" is the 40-year-old playwright's second show at the Fringe; last year's show was "An Evening of Semi-Autobiographical Highly Self-Indulgent Comedy." "SUV" is filled with music (composed by Marc Dinkin) and dance (choreographed by Fort Greene-ite Katie Workum). Workum has created four big dance numbers with the

full cast of 12 and smaller numbers for each of the songs.

"Our double-dealing sheik [played by Derek Roland] does a great solo tap number," says Kuntzman.

Dinkin has written both lyrics and music for what Kuntzman calls "up-tempo numbers and a few ballads, the most important of which is sung by one crash dummy to another."

"It will bring tears to your eyes," guarantees Kuntzman.

Although he insists his musical is an old-fashioned, three-hanky timeless love story, Kuntzman modestly describes "SUV" as "a raucous satire of American life."

At a time when gasoline prices are soaring while SUVs run rampant on our streets and roadways, and oil is intricately involved in terrorism and war, "SUV: The Musical" is certainly topical no matter which side of the highway you take your stand.

THEATER

A world, a park

Howling Moon Cab Company will stage plays about people in parks — in Brooklyn Bridge Park — on Aug. 18-19. Jonathan Wallace, founder of the company and organizer of the two-day event, told GO Brooklyn that "The Park Plays: An Evening of Short Plays Set in Parks" is comprised of six 10-minute plays — a seventh play may be added — which all take place "with people you might meet in Brooklyn Bridge Park."

I put out a request over the internet for short plays set in parks. I received several hundred plays — many more than we could produce," Wallace said. He then further refined the selection process, limiting the plays to only those representing slice-of-life situations. Wallace said the resulting choices are both dramatic and funny.

Himself a playwright who has had readings and productions at Manhattan's Abingdon Theatre Company and The Flea, Wallace contributed one piece to "The Park Plays" — "Rockettes," about two women from the West Coast who get off a Greyhound bus and talk in a park before they go to an audition for the Radio City dance troupe. [The stars of "Rockettes" are Roxanne Seauarine (right) and Tom Ann DeNoble.]

Another play features two couples at a picnic and an infidelity revealed, while another concerns people interacting with the homeless.

"It's a pretty good selection with diverse casting," Wallace said. "We're showing New York life in an enjoyable way."

"The Park Plays: An Evening of Short Plays Set in Parks" will be presented on Aug. 18 and Aug. 19, at 7 pm, in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Enter the park at Main and Plymouth streets in DUMBO. Both performances are free and open to the public. For more information, call (917) 359-6234.

—Paulanne Simmons

BOOKS

Trashy tale

Park Slope author Elizabeth Royte will encourage you to get in touch with the coffee grounds and other cast-offs in the bottom of your trash can when she reads from her new book "Garbage Land: On the Secret Trail of Trash" at Book Court on Aug. 13 at 6 pm.

Royte's nonfiction tale of pawing through her own refuse, and then following its journey from her city Sanitation Department to a landfill in Pennsylvania — and beyond — was published on July 13 by Little, Brown and Company.

This is the second book by Royte, who previously penned "The Tipton's Morning Bath: Mysteries of the Tropical Rain Forest and the Scientists Who Are Trying to Solve Them" (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001).

Plan to feel differently about what you discard — and to feel just plain guilty — after she shares her first-hand observations about the staying power of garbage.

BookCourt is located at 163 Court St. at Dean Street in Cobble Hill. For more information, call (718) 875-3677.

—Lisa J. Curtis

Swim fan

Abandoned pool inspires
Noemie Lafrance's 'Agora'

By Karen Butler
for The Brooklyn Papers

Eight years ago, long-time Williamsburg resident Noemie Lafrance happened upon the ruins that were once the neighborhood's glorious McCarren Park Pool. Seeing the incredible potential there, the renowned artist and choreographer was moved to create "Agora," a site-specific, performance-art piece.

"I was inspired right away to do something there," Lafrance told GO Brooklyn. "And I think that the time has just come for me to do it. I don't know if I would have been able to do it on that scale eight years ago. I probably knew that because the site demands something really grandiose to happen. It's so big,

it's hard to fill it even with 30 people. "And I knew, also, how difficult it would be to get through the bureaucracy that's involved," said the native Canadian. "And it's not even only the bureaucracy, it's really community outreach. It's working with government. It's working with everyone."

A celebration of the gathering of people and exchange of ideas in an open space, "Agora" is a performance piece combining dance and a recorded multi-channel sound installation, composed by Brooks Williams with Norm Scott. The performances on Sept. 13-18 and Sept. 20-24 — at 8 pm — are scheduled to herald the re-opening of the pool on Lorimer Street, between Driggs Avenue and Bayard Street.



Making SENS: Choreographer Noemie Lafrance (foreground) will lead her troupe SENS in a performance of "Agora," a site-specific dance set in the newly spiffed up McCarren Park pool basin, in September.

Along with the New York City Parks Department, local community groups and various other organizations, donors and helpers, Lafrance and her non-profit, experimental arts production company, SENS (the French word for the senses), have been working to restore the historic pool and its surrounding structure as a cultural meeting place for

the community, all the while fine-tuning the original performance-art piece they will stage there next month.

The estimated cost of the entire project is about \$500,000, funded by federal and state grants, as well as private and corporate sponsors and various arts foundations.

"We are putting in some of our own

DANCE

The SENS production of "Agora" will be performed at the McCarren Park Pool (Lorimer Street, between Driggs Avenue and Bayard Street in Williamsburg) from Sept. 13 through 18 and from Sept. 20 through 24 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$40 and \$25 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12 and can be bought at the McCarren Park Pool box office (open Tuesday through Friday from Aug. 30 to Sept. 30, from 4 pm to 7 pm) and online at <http://www.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=276>. Group discounts available.

For information about volunteering for the restoration effort, e-mail SENS@info@sensproduction.org or call (718) 302-5024.

money that we fund-raised, with a lot of sweat, to actually make that site possible for public access," explained Lafrance, an artist and entrepreneur active in the Williamsburg-Greenpoint neighborhoods for the past decade.

"So, in that sense, we're working with the Parks Department, because we are investing in the park, but also we're thinking about it as something of a long-term investment. Because if you are going to put so much money into making the site available for the public and available for the performance, we'd like to spread the investment over time. I

See AGORA on page 11

ART



In 'Rapture'

The Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition unveils its 23rd annual outdoor sculpture show, "Rapture," on Aug. 13, with a reception from noon to 6 pm. On Saturday, Jan Bell will host a program of live music at the Little Red Hen Music Stage during the reception for the 25 participating artists, who hail from all over the country.

"Rapture," which is installed in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park and Brooklyn Bridge Park, will be on display through Oct. 7. Among the works on display is Ussula Clark's "Metamorphosis" (pictured).

Access the parks at Main and Plymouth streets or at Dock and Water streets. The exhibit is open to the public from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm daily. For more information, visit www.bwac.org or call (718) 596-2506.

—Lisa J. Curtis

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BROOKLYN PAPERS

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week:
BOERUM HILL

Bar Tabac

128 Smith St. at Dean Street, (718) 923-0918
(AmEx) Entrees: \$12.95-\$17.95.
Look for the vertical maroon-and-white sign of a motorcyclist to find this French bistro offering a spacious dining room and bar area big enough for a football table by the entrance. Brothers Georges and Jacques Forgois opened Bar Tabac with a dinner menu featuring shell steak, tuna steak, salmon, lamb shank and mussels. Top it off with one of their "diet busters": creme brûlée or fruit de saison chocolate cake. Open into the early morning hours, Bar Tabac is a haven for late-night nibblers. They're also open for lunch and brunch (Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am to 4 pm) with a drink menu of refreshing tonics like the Mojito (grenadine, Sprite and beer) or Tango (grenadine and beer). Enjoy live music during brunch as well as on Monday and Wednesday nights. Sidewalk seating available. Open daily.

Cafe Kai

151 Smith St. at Bergen Street, (718) 956-3466
(MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$11.
Lisa DeLorenzo opened this organic-vegetarian juice bar in July 2003. The cafe now offers a selection of hot dishes, in addition to its sandwiches and salads. The cafe has several tables where you can hunker down with a cup of coffee or herbal or chai tea. Stock up on their soups (including potato leek, gazpacho, and butternut squash with ginger and green onion) and their breads and muffins — delightful additions to breakfast when hosting overnight guests. Signature sandwich: marinated tofu with fresh pesto and roasted vegetables. For dessert open up a vegan strawberry cheesecake. Check for daily entree specials. Garden seating available. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Brunch is served on weekends. Delivery available.

Carroll Garden Classic Diner

155 Smith St. at Bergen Street, (718) 403-9940
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7-\$25.95.
The long-lived diner (also known as Salvo's) has traditional Greek and Italian dishes as well as steaks, overstuffed sandwiches and seafood. Although heavier dishes rule, the menu also offers an assortment of lower-fat options like buffalo burgers, steamed halibut and salads. In addition to the standard menu, the diner offers a brunch menu on weekends for \$13.95, which includes selections such as salmon Benedict served with a choice of coffee, tea or juice and the choice of fruit salad or a slice of pie. Garden seating available. Open 24 hours.

Jolie Restaurant

320 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, (718) 488-0777
(AmEx) Entrees: \$12-\$20.
From the art displayed on the walls to suede banquettes and contemporary-style chandeliers, Jolie Restaurant is all about its name — it's very "pretty." In addition to the 60-seat dining room, you can enjoy a Nancy Lu, Magda or Bette — cocktails known as "Jolie juices" — at the 10-seat marble-top bar. The classic French dishes, created by chef Michel Pombois, are the most popular. There's an extensive omelette menu with cornichons and onion compote or the over-the-top champagne with sautéed potatoes, spinach and potatoes. Or choose from one of their daily specials, suggests co-owner Benjamin Tietout. Complete your meal with a crepe suzette, a crepe filled with orange cream and heated at tableside. Outdoor dining is available in the 50-seat rear garden. Open Mondays for dinner; Tuesday through Friday for lunch and dinner; Saturday and Sunday, from 11 to 4 pm for brunch and 5:30 pm to closing for dinner.

La Rosa and Sons

98 Smith St. at Pacific Street, (718) 935-0545
(Cash only) Entrees: \$8.75-\$10.50; large cheese pizza: \$12.75.
Schack owners Jim Mamary and Alan Harding have teamed up again to open La Rosa and Sons — a local pizza joint where you can sit down and enjoy a local pizza just as easily as you can grab a slice to go. It's a take-back-to-back with the partners' Pacific Street-fronting Pacific Restaurant. They share Pacific's bar, so margaritas and beer can be enjoyed

★ = Full review available at

Brooklyn Papers
com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, Disc= Discover, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



The interior of Pacifico.

with meals as well as wine. In addition to sandwiches, calzones and pizza, the restaurant offers sumptuous fare like baked rigatoni with olive sauce. The interior should be marveled at — between the wood floors, soaring fireplace (in winter), votive candles and walls covered by Mexican tiles, Pacifico could be a proper hacienda. If it only had burros tethered outside. Outdoor seating is available on the enclosed patio. Open for lunch and dinner Friday through Sunday; dinner served every night.

Pacifico

269 Pacific St. at Smith Street, (718) 935-9090
(Cash only) Entrees: \$6-\$13.
Pacifico serves authentic Mexican food with a hip, yet reverential attitude. Opened by Jim Mamary and Alan Harding, Pacifico's inventive menu offers a charred shrimp and tortilla stack with corn mango salsa, steamed mussels with beer and serrano chilis and pulled beef tacos with olive sauce. The interior should be marveled at — between the wood floors, soaring fireplace (in winter), votive candles and walls covered by Mexican tiles, Pacifico could be a proper hacienda. If it only had burros tethered outside. Outdoor seating is available on the enclosed patio. Open for lunch and dinner Friday through Sunday; dinner served every night.

Soul Spot

402 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, www.the-soulspot.com (718) 596-9933 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.95-\$12.95.
Chef Yvonne and Chef Yvonne Cessey opened this Caribbean-influenced, Southern-style soul food spot in June 2003. Cessey, who says he spent five years at Soul Fire in Manhattan, has a long list of signature dishes which includes meatloaf, barbecue ribs, fried chicken, chicken and dumplings, baked salmon, macaroni and cheese, collard greens, candied yams and peach cobbler. As the menu says, "Makes you never wanna cook at home." But with Soul Spot's free local delivery, you may never even have to leave home to eat well. Sidewalk dining is available. Catering available for all occasions. Open daily from 11 am to 11 pm.

Stonehome Wine Bar

87 Lafayette Ave. at South Portland Avenue, (718) 634-0443, www.stonehomewinebar.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$4-\$12.
Chef Stacie Lynn serves up light fare including warm citrus marinated shrimp with angelica, cucumber and tropical fruit, wild mushroom ravioli with herb butter, and grilled chicken with green bean, pecorino, or sample the cheese platters, charcuterie or hot pressed sandwiches. Desserts include flourless chocolate cake, vanilla almond pudding and red velvet cake. Offers a selection of 140 wines, including 25 by the glass and 5 different tasting flights. Open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday.

Taku

116 Smith St. at Dean Street, (718) 488-6269
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12-\$25.
A soothing feeling surrounds diners from the moment that they set foot inside brand-new Taku. The green-glass walls produce a serene vibe that is perfectly appropriate for the Japanese-influenced cooking of chef and co-owner Adam Shepard, who opened the restaurant just eight weeks ago. The deep-fried chicken wings, brined in the juice from the sour citrus fruit, "yuzu," made spicy with "Sriracha" (chile and garlic) dressing and served with a sour cream cucumber dipping sauce, is recommended by Shepard. The pork loin with braised Asian radish, "daiikon," and the grilled rib eye steak with sweet caramel onions and roasted "matka" mushrooms are also good eats, according to Shepard. For dessert, be sure to indulge in one of the eight flavors of ice cream, which Shepard gets from the Il Laboratorio del Gelato in Manhattan's Lower East Side. There is garden seating and reservations are recommended. Open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday, and also for lunch Friday through Sunday. Closed Mondays.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com or on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via email at Curtis@brooklynpapers.com.

Little one's big flavors

Vacation memories stoked by visit to quaint Fort Greene restaurant

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

My sister and I took our mother to New Mexico to celebrate her 80th birthday. On our way to Santa Fe from the Albuquerque airport, we stopped in a funky little town called Madrid, population about 200. The town's main drag is two blocks long and lined with a few galleries, small cafes and the kind of clothing stores where incense burns and the proprietor tie-dyes tunics in the rear of the shop. Nothing has changed much in Madrid since the '60s when the "hippies" moved in. Their homes, still standing on the little dirt paths off the town's center, had no electricity or plumbing and were purchased for around \$200, or so the story goes. If you glance at the houses, you can still see old stained glass pieces with peace symbols in a couple of windows.

We stopped for lunch at a cafe with a porch painted in wild colors, and a few tables inside where the waitresses called the locals Big Freddy and Little Mommy and a few tourists wore Mexican-style long skirts and turquoise jewelry.

The food was the kind of awful grub that no self-respecting diner cook in New York would serve: not-so-fresh hamburgers made from pre-frozen patties and overcooked on the grill; unseasoned macaroni salad; weak coffee. When we mentioned to the waitress that we were in town for mom's birthday, she brought over a slice of gummy lemon meringue pie with a candle and sang "Happy Birthday."

Everyone whistled. Big Freddy gave mom the thumbs up. I was reminded of the experience when I visited Pequeña, a Mexican cafe in Fort Greene. Sitting on one of the neighborhood's quieter, leafy side

streets, the tiny eatery sports a porch painted in the same happy tones as the eatery in Madrid. Inside there were a few tables with diners drinking beer and margaritas. The only thing missing was Madrid's regular and the visitors wearing squash blossom necklaces — well, that and the awful food.

Two-year-old Pequeña ("little one") serves up Mexican fare that rivals some of the better meals I enjoyed during the trip.

Chef Johannes Sanzin developed the menu. Before teaming up with co-owner Chelsea Altman, Sanzin was the executive chef at Bistro St. Mark's, and still oversees the kitchen of their other venture, Maggie Brown, also in Fort Greene.

While Sanzin is German-born, his kitchen is staffed with a collective of cooks from the Pueblo section of Mexico.

DINING

Pequeña (86 South Portland at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene) keeps cash only. Entrees: \$6-\$16. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. Brunch is available from 11:30 am to 4 pm on weekends. For reservations call (718) 643-0000.

Not everything that emerges from their kitchen is perfection — the guacamole was dull, and a fried fish taco had no discernable flavor — but when everything is in sync in the kitchen, what appears at the table is a delight.

Order the subtly sweet coconut-mango frozen margarita or the truly tart fresh raspberry, and they'll cool you down quickly. But they're potent, so sip slowly. With the cocktails, try the "side sampler" appetizer that can feed four: a platter of guacamole, refried black beans with a hint of spicy dried pepper, fresh pico de gallo (chopped onions, tomatoes and cilantro) and fabulous slices of sweet, fried plantains. You've had better guacamole, but you'll find the warm tomato sauce, billed as "spicy tomato salsa," was so smoothly textured and flat in flavor.

The only clunker in the meal was the fish taco. The fish was under-fried, leaving it limp, and the smear of chipotle-flavored mayonnaise didn't have



Pull up a rocking chair: Patrons pack the front porch of Pequeña restaurant in Fort Greene.

avocado and fresh tortilla chips (that soak up the liquid and stay chewy) crown the works. A squeeze of lime and fresh cilantro enliven the ingredients.

One dish that is a must-try is the stewed pork enchiladas. The pork is slow-cooked until the meat is sweet and moist, then rolled in soft tortillas, topped with a nose-tling, spicy green salsa and baked. "Queso fresco," a mild, fresh goat's milk cheese, melts over the top. It's delicious.

The chiles rellenos are almost as good. A mild poblano pepper is stuffed with a blend of three Oaxacan cheeses, a touch of sharp white cheddar (not authentic but it adds a pleasant sharpness) and the "queso fresco," dipped in a light batter, then fried. It's the world's best grilled-cheese sandwich with the pepper standing in for bread. Too bad the tomato sauce, billed as "spicy tomato salsa," was so smoothly textured and flat in flavor.

The only clunker in the meal was the fish taco. The fish was under-fried, leaving it limp, and the smear of chipotle-flavored mayonnaise didn't have

enough oomph to perk up this flaccid dish.

That lackluster entree was redeemed by dessert, particularly the key lime pie. (Sorry, Steve Tarpin, of Steve's Authentic Key Lime Pies, a baker in Red Hook whose pies I've raved about for years: I have a new love.) Luz Maria Perez, the baker of Pequeña's key lime pie, nudged yours out of my heart for one taste. Perez's dessert is lushly creamy and veers more toward the tart than sweet. However, it's her crust that shoos this confection into the stratosphere. Under the filling are decadently buttery, sweet pastry nuts, like you'd find atop a crumb cake, lightly pressed into a crisp layer. The play of smooth and crunchy textures makes eating the pie a blissful experience.

Her flan, with its slightly bitter sugar syrup, is just as good.

As I left Pequeña, I edged past a couple drinking beer on the patio and carefully stepped over a tangle of dogs snoozing on the sidewalk. The scene was right out of Madrid.

Big Freddy would give it a thumbs up.

Mama's boy

How many restaurateurs say their mothers influenced their cooking?

But do any of those ingrates name their restaurants after dear old mom?

Here's one: Rafael Hasis. Hasis's new place, Miriam, is named for his mother who, he says, "is a great cook." And he's using some of her recipes on his menu.

Miriam, which Hasis opened July 1 on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, features Middle Eastern cuisine, but don't come here expecting falafels. This is "upscale Middle Eastern," says Hasis, who also owns Hill Diner in Cobble Hill. "Upscale Middle Eastern" means you'll fork up sole baked in tahini sauce; eggplant terrine, easily annotated with truffle oil; and raw flounder marinated in spices and sliced thin for Middle Eastern "sashimi." Hasis's fresh herb salad (at left) features baby octopus and marinated "azuki" beans.

There are several Israeli wines on the

55-bottle international wine list, with many good pours falling into the \$20-\$32 range. Enjoy a glass with a dessert of cool, custardy panna cotta, flavored with rosewater and sprinkled with pistachios, or tahini mousse topped with halvah (a confection made from ground sesame seeds and honey).

Miriam has a warmer ambience than the cooler modern vibe of its predecessor, the Samuel Cafe. A tiled bar runs the length of the room, wooden tables seat 60 guests and Moroccan-style lamps cast patterns about the dining area. On weekend evenings, musicians play while a belly dancer shakes her stuff.

Mama would kvel. Miriam (79 Fifth Ave. at Prospect Place) accepts American Express, Diner's Club, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$11.50-\$18. The restaurant serves dinner daily and brunch on weekends from 9 am to 3 pm. For more information, call (718) 622-2250. — Tina Barry

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Where to GO

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

Sat, Aug 13

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BEACH VOLLEYBALL: Citywide tournament preliminaries. Prizes and goodies bags. 8:30 am. West 10th and 12th streets, at the Boardwalk. Pre-register at www.nyc.gov/parks or call 311. Free.

BACK TO THE BEACH: NY Transit Museum offers tour, "The Evolution of Coney Island Railroad Routes." Subway historian Joe Cunningham leads tour. \$20, \$15 members. 11 am. Call to register and for meeting location. (718) 694-1861.

OPENING DAY: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition hosts "Repture," its annual outdoor sculpture show. 1 pm to 6 pm. Also, screening of "The Worlds of Wonder." Music by Little Red Hen throughout the day. Brooklyn Bridge Park, Water and New Dock streets. (718) 596-2507. Free.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a tour around neighborhood, with a detour into Manhattan Beach. \$11, \$9 members, \$8 seniors and students. 2 pm to 4 pm. Meet at Sheepshead Bay, Road and East 10th Street. (718) 788-8800.

BOAT TOUR: Brooklyn Historical Society takes a tour of Brooklyn's working waterfront. \$20, \$18 members, reduced fares for children. 11:05 am. Meet at Fulton Ferry Landing in Brooklyn. Call for reservations. (212) 742-1569.

NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR: Mauricio Luerme hosts a tour of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25, 2 pm to 5 pm. New York Marriott Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

PERFORMANCE
BRICK THEATER: presents "Some of The Best of The Moral Values Festival." \$10, 4 pm. Metropolitan Ave. (212) 868-4444.

BARGEMUSIC: Classical music concert features a program of Rameau, Debussy, Poulenc and Bolling. \$35, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2063.

BRIC STUDIO: Art Now Foundation presents "Monoral: Obsessions," a collection of monologues. \$10, 8 pm. 57 Rockwell Place. (212) 414-5114.

MUSIC: Copper Kettle plays blues music. No cover. 10 pm. Two Boats, 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

CHILDREN
POKEMON TOURNAMENT: sponsored by Kings Games. \$20 fee. 11 am. 1724 E. 12th St. (718) 336-1955.

PUPPETWORKS: presents "Around the World in 80 Days." \$8, \$7 children. 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. 338 South Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 965-3391.

TRANSIT MUSEUM: Kids, ages 4 to 16, are invited to design a bus. \$5, \$3 children ages 3 to 17, and seniors, 1 pm. Schermerhorn Street and Boerum Place. (718) 694-1873.

SHOW: "Gustafur Yellowgold's Wide Wild World," featuring music, animated illustrations and song. Admission by donation. 2 pm. Community



Can't drive 55? This acrylic painting, "Venus on Her Way," will be on display through Sept. 1 at Gallery on Dean's show of works by Sal Gulino, "Twelve Art Icons Motoring to Brooklyn."

Bookstore, 143 Seventh Ave. (718) 783-3075.

STORY HOUR: Ezra Jack Keats story hour at the Imagination Playground, Prospect Park. 2 pm to 3 pm. Ocean Avenue, between Parkside Avenue and Lincoln Road. (718) 965-8960. Free.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: hosts a family science workshop, "Summer Solas." The garden is teeming with tomatoes; learn how to make salsa. Appropriate for ages 4 and older. \$4, free for members. 3 pm to 5 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400. Free.

ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum invites kids to "Stories Art" series. Today, "Brooklyn Sloops," a talk about city tales. \$8 adults, \$4 students and seniors. Free for members. 4 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

NATIONAL AMERICAN MISS: Brooklyn Marriott hosts both the Miss New York Princess (ages 4 to 6) and the Miss Jr. Pre-Teen (ages 7 to 9) pageants. \$33 Adams St. Call for time. (718) 246-7000.

OTHER
GREENMARKET: Third annual produce market in Fort Greene Park. 8 am until park closes. (718) 907-4403.

FASHION MARKET: Brooklyn Designers Showcase features emerging designers of handcrafted merchandise. 10:30 am to 3 pm. 157 Montague St. (718) 763-7654.

INTERACTIVE ART: Micro Museum presents "Silver," an exhibit of wearable art, media installations and interactive talking furniture. \$2. Noon to 6 pm. 123 Smith St. (718) 797-3116.

EARTH ART SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition hosts a show at Red Hook Pier. Noon to 6 pm. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

GARDENING TALK: Floyd Bennett Gardens Association hosts talk "Vegetables

on the Grill." Learn what to do with summer vegetables. 2 pm. Gateway National Park. (718) 338-3799. Free.

LIBRARY WORKSHOP: hosts talk, "L. Chavril Health and Long Life for Family Photographs." \$20, 3 pm to 4:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch. Reservations necessary. (718) 230-2100.

BOOK COURT: presents Elizabeth Royte, author of "GarbageLand: On the Secret Trail of Trash." 6 pm. 163 Court St. (718) 875-3677. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting: The Shaw Brothers." Today, "Intimate Confessions of a Chinese Courtesan" (1972). \$10, \$7 students. 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

FILM SERIES: Indefinitepage.com presents The Silver Screen Spook Show. \$5 includes popcorn. 8:30 pm. Coney Island Museum, 1208 Surf Ave. (718) 972-5169.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL: in remembrance of people killed because of terrorist acts in Israel and around the world. 10 pm. Meet at Grand Army Plaza. Bring a candle. (212) 361-0768.

ONGOING
ART EXHIBIT: "Twelve Art Icons Motoring to Brooklyn," a show of Sal Gulino's photorealistic work, is on view at Gallery on Dean now through Sept. 1. 11 am to 11 pm. Call for hours on other days of the week. 755 Dean St. (718) 638-3326.

Sun, Aug 14
OUTDOORS AND TOURS
GREEN WOOD CEMETERY: Big Ocean Tours hosts a walk around this Victorian "City of the Dead." Learn about its history, architecture and residents. \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 stu-

dents. 1 pm. Meet at main entrance. Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (212) 439-1000.

SUNSET TOUR: Gowanus Dredgers offers a Red Hook Estuary Discovery tour on the East River. 4 pm to 8 pm. Also, kids are invited to learn about the oyster monitoring project. 2 pm to 5 pm. Call for info. (718) 243-0849.

PERFORMANCE
GOSPEL MUSIC: Micah Stangely and his wife Heidi sing "Powerful Praise Tabernacle, 708 Myrtle Ave., between Schermerhorn and Waterfront streets. Call for time. (718) 422-1170. Free.

BARGEMUSIC: Classical music concert features a program of Rameau, Debussy, Poulenc and Bolling. \$35, 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2063.

MUSIC: St. Jacob's Ev. Lutheran Church presents soprano Marianne Labriola accompanied by pianist Tamara Calhoun. Program features works by American composers. 4 pm. 5406 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-8978. Free.

MUSIC AND DANCE: La Troupe Malabar presents its seventh annual "Bwa Kayman," featuring drum-and-dance drama inspired by Haiti's struggle for social and economic justice. 4 pm. Imagination Playground, Prospect Park, enter at Ocean Avenue at Lincoln Road. (718) 953-9335. Free.

CHILDREN
TRANSIT MUSEUM: Kids, ages 6 and older, are invited to "Street Car Safari," a mixture of poetry and pop-up collages. \$5, \$3 for children ages 4 to 5. 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. See Sat, Aug. 13.

PUPPETWORKS: "Around the World in 80 Days." 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. See Sat, Aug. 13.

OTHER
TISHA B'AV: Congregation B'nei Jacob hosts a day of reflection. 9 am to 2 pm. 401 Ninth St. (718) 832-1260. Free.

FARMER'S MARKET: Locally grown fruits and vegetables and handmade food for sale. 11 am to 5 pm. Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street at JJ Byrne Park. (914) 923-4837.

EARTH ART SHOW: hosted by Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition. Noon to 6 pm. Acoustic folk music by Tina Olsen. 3 pm. See Sat, Aug. 13.

MARKET: Fruits and vegetables at Wyckoff Farmhouse. 1 pm to 4 pm. 5816 Clarendon Road. (718) 629-5400.

SUNDAY CHAT: Clinton Hill Art Gallery offers secrets and hints on selecting custom picture framing. 2 pm to 4 pm. 154A Vanderbilt Ave. (718) 852-1227. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting: The Shaw Brothers." Today, "Golden Swallow" (1968). \$10, \$7 students. 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

FILM: Cafe Serephid presents "Dog Day Afternoon" (1975). 10:30 pm. 622 Seventh Ave. (718) 369-7776. Free.

LIST YOUR EVENT...
To list your event in Where to GO, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201 or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

Mon, Aug 15

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Lonely Heart: Philippe Garrel." Today, "Emergency Kisses" (1988). \$10, \$7 students. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

CONCERT: 23rd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Concert Series presents Chaka Kahn. Also, The Brothers Johnson. 7:30 pm. Wingate Field, Winthrop Street, between Brooklyn and Kingston avenues. (718) 469-1912. Free.

PARK CONCERT: Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst Parks Task Force presents Frankie Maria and His Band, featuring classic rock music. 7 pm. Call concert hotline. (718) 236-7547. Free.

CONCERT: Music with Chaka Kahn and The Brothers Johnson. 7:30 pm. Wingate Field, on Winthrop Street between Brooklyn and Kingston avenues. (718) 469-1912. Free.

LECTURE SERIES: David Berg Series with Rabbi Aaron Raskin in a discussion "The Kabbalah of the 10 Commandments." Tonight, "Respect Your Father and Mother." 8 pm to 9 pm. 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4840. Free.

DAY CAMP: Brooklyn Bridge Park hosts the "Canoe Canoe" canoeing exploration on the waterfront. Call. (718) 862-8663.

DANCE INTENSIVE: Dancewave offers a summer dance program for teens. Through Aug. 14, Old First Reformed Church, 729 Carroll St. Call for time. (718) 422-1810. Free.

NATIONAL AMERICAN MISS: Brooklyn Marriott hosts both the Miss New York Junior Teen (ages 12 to 15) and the Miss NY Teen (ages 16 to 18) pageants. Junior teen finale, 4:30 pm; NY Teen finale at 7:45 pm. \$15 per participant. 333 Adams St. (718) 246-7000.

Tues, Aug 16

BUSINESS TALK: Church Avenue Merchants Block Association offers a talk "The Dog Ate My Website." Learn basics of online marketing. 2 pm to 5:30 pm. 1720 Church Ave. (718) 287-2600. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Lonely Heart: Philippe Garrel." Today, "I Can No Longer Hear the Guitar" (1991). \$10, \$7 students. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

OPERA: Regine Opera performs at Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Heights branch, 280 Cadman Plaza West. Call for time. (718) 623-1070. Free.

MUSIC BY THE SEA: 27th annual Seaside Summer Concert Series presents Larry Chance and The Earls. \$5, 7:30 pm. Asser Levy Park, West Fifth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 469-1912.

PARK CONCERT: Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst Parks Task Force presents "The Dog Ate My Website." 2 pm to 5:30 pm. 1720 Church Ave. (718) 287-2600. Free.

Continued on page 10...

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OSILE

Theater for the New City proudly displays its 'Insecurity'

By **Paulanne Simmons**
For The Brooklyn Papers

These are dark and dangerous times. And Theater for the New City's Street Theater Company has responded with a show that is dark, and may actually be considered dangerous by many.

"Social Insecurity," with a book and lyrics by Theater for the New City artist director Crystal Field, and music by her longtime collaborator Joseph Verner Banks, tells the story of a journey taken by three soldiers (Craig Meade, Primi Rivera, Alexander Battenfield) through Operation Iraqi Freedom and their return home, as seen through the lens of an eccentric, documentary filmmaker (Mark Marcante), who tells the audience in English and Spanish, "The truth is make you free."

(The original saying belongs to Goethe, and he made it in German.)

In "Social Insecurity," the soldiers have been recruited by overzealous military personnel who prey on vulnerable youths — offering them free college tu-

tion, alternative schooling and the road to glory. But what they find in Iraq is quite different than what they had anticipated. They witness the anger of Iraqi citizens, the torture and humiliation of Iraqi prisoners, and the corruption of necessary forces.

The soldiers share packages from home and memories of loved ones. While a missile that American forces have buried in a roadbed accidentally kills one of them, the soldier's ghost says he cannot rest until the injustices of the war have ended. On bivouac, the two remaining soldiers meet the filmmaker and help him save his footage from those who would like to destroy it.

At last the soldiers come home, but the America they return to is filled with insecurity — not only social (President Bush plans to "play the market for our pensions"), but political (the Patriot Act has deprived people of basic rights) and economic (jobs are flying offshore, affordable housing keeps disappearing and public education is under-funded because of the city's \$80



Theater for the New City cast belts out the prom scene number from Crystal Field's "Social Insecurity."

billion price tag). Packed into a subway car on a track with only one exit, the soldiers and filmmaker end up at the Bling Bling Bros. circus, where George W. Bush is a lion performing tricks. Condozeira Rie is a snake and Dick Cheney is the incoherent ringmaster.

The musical asks, "Can America survive?" According to Field, yes, but only if American citizens, through protest and political action, make their elected officials see the folly of their ways. But much of the commedia dell'arte techniques Theater for the New City traditionally uses in its street theater is missing from this production. There are no puppets and a minimal use of masks.

Given the tenor of the times, the solemnity seemed entirely appropriate. And then again, there is much that is inspirational and empowering in "So-

cial Insecurity." The upbeat "An Artist Tells the Truth," brings comfort, and the rousing final number, "Bring the Troops Home," offers hope.

Having cut their teeth working with Theater for the Living Arts in Philadelphia, Read and Puppet Theater in New York and protesting the Vietnam War, Field is a confirmed believer in the power of theater to educate and inspire. But even more important, her work is rooted in the understanding that theater should be presented in a context of relevancy not only to an elite who can afford big ticket prices, but also to the poor and minorities — the people who hear and spread the message on the streets of Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island, and Brooklyn.

—*compiled by Chiara V. Conan*

BROOKLYN Nightlife

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Aug. 13: Carmen Borja, 7 p.m. FREE, Aug. 14: 12:30, 18:30, 21:30, 24:30, 27:30, 30:30, 33:30, 36:30, 39:30, 42:30, 45:30, 48:30, 51:30, 54:30, 57:30, 60:30, 63:30, 66:30, 69:30, 72:30, 75:30, 78:30, 81:30, 84:30, 87:30, 90:30, 93:30, 96:30, 99:30, 102:30, 105:30, 108:30, 111:30, 114:30, 117:30, 120:30, 123:30, 126:30, 129:30, 132:30, 135:30, 138:30, 141:30, 144:30, 147:30, 150:30, 153:30, 156:30, 159:30, 162:30, 165:30, 168:30, 171:30, 174:30, 177:30, 180:30, 183:30, 186:30, 189:30, 192:30, 195:30, 198:30, 201:30, 204:30, 207:30, 210:30, 213:30, 216:30, 219:30, 222:30, 225:30, 228:30, 231:30, 234:30, 237:30, 240:30, 243:30, 246:30, 249:30, 252:30, 255:30, 258:30, 261:30, 264:30, 267:30, 270:30, 273:30, 276:30, 279:30, 282:30, 285:30, 288:30, 291:30, 294:30, 297:30, 300:30, 303:30, 306:30, 309:30, 312:30, 315:30, 318:30, 321:30, 324:30, 327:30, 330:30, 333:30, 336:30, 339:30, 342:30, 345:30, 348:30, 351:30, 354:30, 357:30, 360:30, 363:30, 366:30, 369:30, 372:30, 375:30, 378:30, 381:30, 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have many, many ideas about what the site can be, but right now, we're really trying to get everyone together to see the site for both recreation and culture."

One of 10 pools built by the City of New York in 1936 in an effort to provide spaces for public gathering, leisure and to generate employment, the swimming hole, which is larger than three Olympic-size pools combined, was closed for renovations in 1984, but has never reopened. While some saw the vacant pool as an eyesore, LaFrance looked at it and decided she wanted to transform it into a 50,000-square-foot, multi-layered performance venue.

The NYC Parks Department has not only granted LaFrance and SENS permission to produce "Agora" there, but it offered to help find sponsors to support the repairs needed in order to make the site ready for the performances.

"There are many themes, but basically, it's called 'Agora,' and it's about agoraphobia," explained LaFrance. "Agoraphobia is kind of the contrary of claustrophobia. It's the fear of large spaces. There are people who can't enter open spaces or can't deal with crossing a large space. Usually, a symptom is movement inhibition or phobias freeze you. And there is also another definition that has to do with social behaviors where people just never leave home because they are afraid of being out there in the world and something may happen. Something may change the course of their lives so they wouldn't want to go outside."

"The [other] idea [behind the piece] is 'agora,' the market-place or the center of town, the place where people gather and meet. And a lot of my inspiration is to question, 'What is the meaning of public space?'"

LaFrance pointed out that McCann Pool is the ideal spot to perform a piece with these themes since it was originally designed to hold 6,800 people looking for an escape during the Great Depression.

"The image of the public space is the plaza, which is kind of like the Greek 'agora,'" she said. "I was thinking the plaza might be a place you go to eat your sandwich, but it's really a public space and a place to go where people go and exchange ideas. The reality of the performance and of the work that I do is people still have to gather to do that to really share ideas."

LaFrance said she chose 30 dancers from 250 people who auditioned for the piece last October. Six performers have been practicing in the studio since January.

"I've been working with six dancers that inspire me and that I feel really connected to," she confided. "And we've been making the material both in studio and outdoors...I really like to make the piece in the site. We're going to work there all the way until September."

Acknowledging that other people and organizations have tried to revitalize the historic site in the past, only to be thwarted by the enormity of the space or the expense of the necessary repairs, LaFrance said she thinks a special event that demonstrates the space's potential might just be the key to a new life for the pool.

"A lot of things are happening right now because this project is — I don't want to say 'like opening up a can of worms' because there are a lot of beautiful things about it, too — but there are just a lot of contingencies with this project. And I think, a lot of them are in regard to the future of this site, which is something really exciting to me," said the woman who staged the performance piece, "Migrations," at Manhattan's Whitney Museum in May. "I have worked in sites before, obviously," she said. "But I would come into sites, make something, love the site and then leave. In this case, that's not what's going on...This is an abandoned space, and it can become a functional space in the future. And it's a space that sort of needs the attention and needs something to happen there... And the community and everything is really anxious and ready to see it happen."

Like Christo's temporary installation of "The Gates" in Central Park last winter and the transitory Gregory Colbert's Nomadic Museum, which attracted legions of visitors to Pier 54 last summer, LaFrance promised "Agora" will allow audiences to experience art outside of the traditional settings of museums, theaters and concert halls.

"I think more and more, not just in dance, but in all different art forms, I think we're moving into the understanding that things exist inside a context and that context is part of the experience. This year's focus is the experience of the artwork itself," LaFrance said. "So a lot of contemporary artists are making works that don't hang on a white wall anymore but that are about the wall itself. Or the gallery is the space, you know? It is the experience."

DUMBO faces spit identity

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Twenty-five years ago, the smells wafting up from the cracks between cobblestones in DUMBO weren't a topic anyone would call the city about.

Back then, it was still almost exclusively a manufacturing district. Now, with a growing skyline of residential towers fit as much for Broadway as Brooklyn, and starving artists being replaced by well-to-do families, a longtime wastewater recycling facility finds itself in a head-to-head battle with emboldened residential neighbors, many of who have lived in DUMBO for years waiting for the balance to shift from industrial to residential.

Chambers Paper Fibers, a wastewater recycling plant that has a long-term contract with the city's Department of Sanitation, faces violations issued from police and the city Department Environmental Protection and the state agency with oversight over the plant, the Department of Environmental Conservation, has yet to raise a stink over the complaints of DUMBO residents.

Neighbors are starting to ask why. "It's always been bad, but they have stepped up their processing capacity from what I can tell," said Dana Kurin, who lives in a loft upstairs from the Jay Street plant.

"The way stepped up what's going through, but they're not very considerate of their neighbors to be honest," said Kurin. "I think they have this feeling that because they've been here first, they don't really have to do anything."

Since 1988, the DUMBO Neighborhood Association (DNA), as well as residents of Pearl Street, Plymouth Street and Jay Street, which asked the waste paper recycling plant at 139 Plymouth St., have issued letters of complaint to every agency or official body they could think of, including Community Board 2, local elected officials, the city's Sanitation, Transportation and Environmental Protection agencies and the state Department of Environmental Conservation, all they say to no avail.

This summer, the DNA launched its longtime campaign to get the city to crack down on the plant, and issued a letter to the 54th Police Precinct asking for assistance in combining the general understanding on the ground that it occupies.

The precinct's commanding officer, Capt. Philip Stierazza, in a dated June 25, 2005, responded by saying that 500 tickets had been issued to Chambers Paper Fibers since April 1 of this year.

"Violations include blocking traffic lanes, parking on sidewalks, detached trailers and illegal parking. We have also issued summonses for lifting trucks and, in response to your request, are instructing officers to pay special attention to that offense," wrote Stierazza.

The police tickets only represent one of a plethora of problems the company faces.

Kurin, whose husband, Alec Drummond, has lived in the neighborhood since 1985, said they had to move their bedroom within the loft because dust and exhaust from the factory was so volatile.

"The exhaust comes straight up into our house, and we have a little baby," she said, mentioning their year-old daughter, Muzia.

"In the summertime, when the windows are open, forget it. The [smell] is there, over their side and they side and they side," she said. "She said that over the 12 years she has lived there, the company has shown no sign that it has gotten the message."

It smells bad, but the wind doesn't blow it up where we are. There are actually people who live [directly] above that. I don't know how they deal with it," she said.

A major stumbling block to getting the complaints addressed, she said, is that the plant's neighbors own the building.

Charlie Rotante, the manager of Chambers Paper Fibers, said when asked about the company's alleged indiscretions, that it wasn't anybody's business but his own, and asked which neighbors had called to complain.

"Who's calling about this?" he asked. "Which neighbors?"

Told it was several residents in the area, he told The Brooklyn Papers, "So what does that have to do with the cost of real estate? What does that have to do with you? Why would you worry? If anybody calls to complain, give them my name and number and let them discuss that with me."

He went on to say, "We were here before they were here. This is a commercial area, half of them are illegal occupants... I don't think you should pay them any mind."

But Michaela, a spokeswoman for the DEP, said Chambers Paper Fibers has a history of violations.

"There were 15 violations since 2003," of which, Michaela said, 13 were paid off to the tune of \$2,500. Eleven were street surface violations, he said, one was a fire safety violation, and three were issued by the (Department of) Sanitation for non-compliance.

Michaela said that most of the violations "were street-type violations," meaning they may be due to unloading on the street, parking on the street with the trucks loaded with trash, or leaving garbage behind on the street.

"It is an odor condition, that would be this department, if it's an idling truck situation, that would also be DEP; if it's people parking trucks where they're not supposed to park it, I don't know who handles that," he said.

Harry Duckett, a spokeswoman for the Sanitation Department, said that while the agency contracted with Chambers, it was limited in terms of its oversight of the company.

"This Chambers Paper (Fibers) is a facility that we do use, however, we do not issue the permit to them," she said, explaining that task was handled by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Asked about the company's history with the DEP, Maureen Wren, a spokeswoman for the state agency, said that although the company is regularly subject to inspections, they have never been issued a violation.

"They do inspections regularly by the department, but there have been no violations to date with this facility," Wren said, adding that the last inspection was June 9. "To date, they have no violations with the DEP."

Duckett said that as a city agency, the Sanitation Department can only monitor what goes on in the streets. "We have contact with them, but we can't control them," she said of Chambers.

"So they've received parking violations, from parking on the sidewalks, idling, sidewalk obstructions, dirty sidewalk, things of that nature," Duckett said. "The last summons they received was last month, and before then they hadn't received one for a while. It is an area that we continue to work with and will continue to monitor."

One DUMBO resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, expected disbelief that Chambers could have a clean record with respect to their internal operations.

She recalled how complaints to elected officials and the community board would result in spurs of ticket blitzes, but provide no long-term supervision.

"Everyone would get ticketed except for Chambers. And they were the most offensive," said the artist, who has lived on Jay Street, between Water and Pearl streets, at 718-635-6236.

Back then, she said, she didn't consider it such a problem. Now, she has a young daughter.

"You tend to not use that block," she said. "Really, it's just kind of gross. I find it shocking that other businesses have not complained."

Cops seek help for 'Harmony'

The Brooklyn Papers

Calling all community-minded merchants: the NYPD needs you! Police are seeking help from local businesses in organizing this year's Harmony Day Picnic on Aug. 24.

Designed to promote good relations between police and the communities they serve and protect, Harmony Day is held each summer in a different part of the city. This year's hosts are the 84th and 88th precincts, in Downtown Brooklyn and Fort Greene.

To get involved with Harmony Day, contact the 84th Precinct Community Affairs Office, at (718) 875-6850, or call Community Affairs at the 88th Precinct, at (718) 635-6236.

The picnic will be held at Commodore Barry Park, on Park Avenue between Navy Street and North Elliot Place. It is scheduled to start at noon. Festivities are to include music, free food and drinks, face painting and games for children. —Stalton

Get your kids writing

Long before your kids get anxious about writing tests and the new essay portion of the SAT, they need fun ways to spark the language side of their brains. Here are several ideas to get children to think creatively and relax about writing:

• First, recognize there is value in all kinds of writing, including comic strips, magnetic poetry on the fridge, a neighborhood newsletter, even blogs.

What's important: Your child becomes curious, and alert to details, and develops a beginning, middle, and end to whatever she's doing. If she's able to focus and knows her target audience, she can write her pre-teen friends, she's well on her way to success on formal writing assignments and tests.

• Harry Potter fans, pick out a few paragraphs in your favorite of J.K. Rowling's six novels. Imitate some of her descriptions, substituting your own family members and friends. Read a small portion again and again.

• To make an assignment not so daunting, teachers often suggest the use of a story map such as spider web in which a student jots down her main ideas and supporting details. The goal: The writer develops a sense of a beginning, middle and end for his story before he ever starts writing.

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Another idea: Make a street map with stop and yield signs. Even get out little cars.

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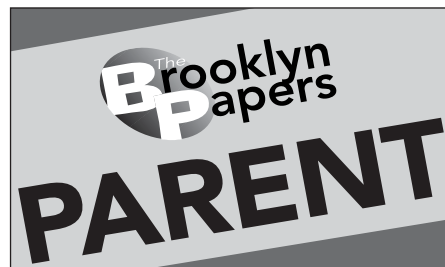
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samples, and travel brochures.

can you help?

My husband and I have a 7-week-old son, our first. He refuses to sleep anywhere but in our arms. If we set him down after he falls asleep, he wakes up promptly and starts crying. We usually pick him up the minute he starts crying. Sometimes we try to tough it out, but he continues to cry even after 15 minutes. Can a baby this young be spoiled simply by being held so much? Signed, "desperate and sleep-deprived."

If you have tips or a question, call any time at (800) 827-1092 or e-mail us at tipsp@att.net.

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TW TIME WARNER
CABLE
Channels 34, 35, 56, 57

CV CABLEVISION
Channels 34, 35, 56, 57

Jon Malo seeks save of his life

JONATHAN MALO PLAYS for the Cyclones, and more than anything else, he desperately wants to make one save this year.

If you're a casual Cyclones fan, you might be a little confused since making just one save for a professional relief pitcher is not that difficult.

If you're a more serious Cyclones follower, then you're really confused since you know that Malo is an infielder, not a pitcher.

But the save Malo needs to make doesn't have anything to do with baseball. The save has to do with a life. His mother's.

Ever since he was 4 years old growing up in Canada, Malo has wanted to play major league baseball. His mother, Linda, has always been behind him, 100 percent.

As Malo, an only child, says, "She was always there for me. She forgets about herself so that I would never miss anything in life."

In 2001, Linda became ill, and she has been battling the illness, since diagnosed as colorectal cancer along with other major complications, ever since.

She is now in Laval, a city about 25 minutes from Montreal.

Linda was a secretary in a dental office, and then a bookkeeper for the grocery store that Malo's father runs.

Because of her illness, Linda has not been able to work for more than three years, and she has endured a number of medical procedures and incurred related costs.

Malo's goal is to help his mother, but he makes a minor league salary, and cannot afford to pay for the operation that she needs, a complicated operation involving a colostomy, a urostomy and a treatment for colorectal cancer with other related complications.

MALO'S MOTHER CANNOT have the operation in Canada, and her son needs to raise \$250,000 so that she can have it performed in the United States.

She has been to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for diagnostic care, and is prepared to come back to the United States to have the operation at an as yet undetermined medical facility if enough money is raised.

Linda, 45, used to weigh 130 pounds, but her weight has dropped to 95 pounds, where it has remained for awhile.

Malo's mom used to go to many of her son's baseball games, but because of her illness, she hasn't seen Malo play in three years. She has been following Malo's play on the internet.

There are tentative plans to bring Linda to Keyspan Park to see Malo play during the Aug. 16-21 homestand, preceding the New York-Penn League All-Star Game and Game at Keyspan Park.

The Cyclones are now formulating plans to help Malo raise money for his mother's operation, and some of these fundraising activities will be in evidence during his mother's visit to Keyspan Park.

When she was feeling well, Linda was very active, enjoying athletics like in-line roller skating and playing tennis.

"She would even play baseball a little bit with me," said Malo.

Malo still has his dream to make the major leagues, and during games and practices he finds that he is able to concentrate on baseball.

"If I couldn't," says Malo, "They'd have to get me off the field."

When he's not on the field, naturally his thoughts focus on his mother's condition.

"I feel guilty all the time for not having the money for her, knowing that it's possible to raise the funds if everyone could lend me a hand," explained Malo.

"This is the worst nightmare I've had in my life," said the Cyclones' infielder.

"I can't let my mother die without doing anything to save her life."

Malo had been keeping his mother's condition private until recently, but he has decided to go public in order to raise funds for the operation.

To raise money, autographed photos of Malo can be ordered from Association Anuvie, a non-profit foundation that will soon change its name to The Jonathan Malo Foundation. The photos cost \$5 and are available from the association's Web site, save-anuvie.org.

Some fans may want to request the photo, while others may elect to make a donation instead.

There will soon be a direct link from the Brooklyn Cyclones' Web site to the Association Anuvie.

Meanwhile, fans can make a donation by going on the internet. (Save-anuvie, translated from French, means "Give life a second chance.")

Those wishing to help can also call (450) 687-8386 in Canada or e-mail info@anuvie.org.

Donors may also send a check, payable to Association Anuvie, to:

Association Anuvie
3169-Zeune Rue
Chomedey, Laval
Quebec, Canada
H7V 1H7

Malo may be Canadian, but his jersey says "Brooklyn." Yet his plight goes far beyond any team's name on any uniform. The team is now much larger, composed of those who help.

"My mother," says Malo, "is my world."

Baseball's in Drew Butera's blood

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

The Cyclones' Drew Butera has been sharing the team's catching job with Rafael Arroyo so far this season, and a very interested spectator at a number of Drew's games at Keyspan Park has been Toronto Blue Jays' scout Sal Butera, who also happens to be Drew's dad.

Sal Butera grew up on Long Island and played baseball at Connetquot High School and Southern Community College before turning pro. A catcher, he eventually played for four major league teams, including the Minnesota Twins.

Drew was a shortstop at Bishop Moore High School in Orlando, Fla. He converted to catcher in his senior year and was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays after high school.

"But Drew was too small—he was only about 5-foot-9 and 165 pounds soaking wet," said his father. "So he decided to go to the University of Central Florida, basically because they promised him that he'd start as a freshman."

But Drew didn't stay small, growing to his present size of 6-foot-1 and 205 pounds. He became a prospect, drafted by the Mets in the fifth round of this year's draft.



The elder Butera, at Keyspan Park to observe both the Auburn Doubledays—a Toronto farm club—and his son, discussed the qualities that a catching prospect should possess.

"You have to be an athlete to play the position. You have to have agility, quick feet—not necessarily speed—and you obviously have to have a strong arm, and, very, very good hands," said Sal.

The Cyclones have many players who are right out of college, so the senior Butera analyzed the process that a college player must go through as he acclimates to minor league ball.

"It's a huge adjustment to go from college to pro ball. You make the adjustment from the metal bat to the wood bat, playing against good competition every night, having to make adjustments at the plate," said Sal.

"I look at how the guy han-



Catcher Drew Butera before start of Friday's game. Butera's father, Sal, is a former major leaguer and a scout for the Toronto Blue Jays.

dles the ups and downs of playing at this level and how he is defensively, because defense is a constant while hitting goes up and down."

Another change for a college catcher, in particular, is that of calling a game.

"In college, generally, coaches call the games. But on a pro level a catcher usually calls the game itself, and that's an adjustment."

Sal also pointed out that a new professional catcher must often learn to communicate with Spanish-speaking pitchers and help them to adjust to the pro game as well.

Butera's parents on both sides immigrated to Brooklyn from Italy, before moving to Queens and then Long Island, but some of Butera relatives still live in Flatbush and other sections of Brooklyn. They have been coming out to games at Keyspan to see him play.

Sal said Keyspan Park is a great place for prospects to play, "because it's a beautiful ballpark with seven or eight thousand at every game, plus it acclimates players to the New York area."

It rhymes with Mookiee

The Cyclones have a player whose family nickname rhymes with the nickname of the Rockies

manager.

William Wilson is the Clones' skipper, but everybody calls him Mookiee.

Who has a nickname that rhymes with Mookiee? The player is an outfielder. He is from Schenectady, N.Y. Like Mookiee, he likes to steal bases.

It's Kyle Brown, and his nickname is "Pookiee."

On The Verge?

Some former Cyclones are doing well at Norfolk, the final stop before the Mets.

Chase Lambin, an infielder who played for Brooklyn in 2002, is hitting .299 for the triple-A Tidewater with five home runs. Earlier this season, Lambin was with double-A Binghamton, where he hit 14 homers while batting .331.

Jason Scobie, who was with the Cyclones in both 2001 and 2002, is .145 for Norfolk, with an ERA of 3.49.

Blake McGinley, with Brooklyn in 2001, is .444 at Norfolk with a 3.27 ERA. And Alan Bannister, with Brooklyn in 2003, is .311 with a 3.58 ERA after being called up from Binghamton.

Angel Pagan, an outfielder with the Cyclones in 2001, is hitting .271 with Norfolk, with a club leading 22 stolen bases.

On rehab, Kaz helps Clones in Brooklyn

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn 5
Vermont 4

August 4 at Keyspan Park
Drew Butera hit a double to center in the bottom of the 11th inning to give the Cyclones a win in the opener of a three-game series.

Vermont (15-28) started the scoring with two runs in the third against Brooklyn starter Jorge Reyes on a two-run triple by Greg Thissen.

Brooklyn (24-18) tied the score in the bottom of the third.

Shortstop Yury Santana singled to left, and center fielder Joe Holden singled to right, sending Santana to third, Holden stole second, then Kaz Matsui, the New York Mets' second baseman in Brooklyn on an injury rehab assignment, grounded out to short, scoring Santana and sending Holden to third where he later scored on a single by Caleb Stewart.

The Cyclones scored two more runs in the fifth. Jonel Pacheco reached first on a fielder's choice. With two away, both Josh Petersen and Nick Evans walked, loading the bases.

Then Jesus Gamero reached first on an error and Pacheco and Petersen scored.

Vermont tied the game at 4-4 in the eighth on a two-RBI single by Mike Daniel.

In the Brooklyn 11th, Jesus Gamero saved the Cyclones on Jewish Heritage

Night as he hit a two-out single to set the stage for Butera's winning double.

Reliever Craig Stammen (3-4) took the loss, while reliever Sal Aguilar (2-0) picked up the victory.

Brooklyn 8
Vermont 3

August 5 at Keyspan Park
A grand slam by Caleb Stewart in the sixth inning put the Cyclones in front for good in Brooklyn's win over the Expos.

Brooklyn (25-18) scored first with a run in the second as Josh Petersen singled and scored on a Nick Evans triple.

Vermont (15-29) came back with two runs in the fourth. Jose Contreras singled, stole second and then scored on a double by Greg Thissen. After an error by Cyclones third baseman Josh Petersen put runners on the corners, Thissen scored on a sacrifice fly by Leon Davis.

The Cyclones loaded the bases with no one out in the fourth on singles by Evans and Jesus Gamero and a walk to Jon Malo, but Brooklyn was able to score only one run.

The Cyclones broke the game open with a five-run sixth.

The rally started with a two-out walk to catcher Drew Butera. Santana singled Butera to second, and center fielder Joe Holden doubled in Butera. Jonel Pacheco was then hit with a pitch, setting the stage for Stewart's blast over the left field fence.

The Cyclones scored a final run in the ninth on a single by Holden, a walk to Pacheco and an RBI single by Stewart.

Brooklyn starter Kevin Tomasiewicz (2-1) got the win and Vermont starter John Lannan took the loss.

Brooklyn 2
August 6 at Keyspan Park

Greg Thissen hit a two-run homer in the fifth to give Vermont a 1-1 lead, and the Expos held on to salvage the final game of the three-game series.

Vermont (16-29) opened the scoring in the first with a run against Brooklyn starter Ryan Meyers (0-2) when Thissen doubled and scored on a single by Francisco Pilecinia.

After Thissen's homer, the Cyclones (25-19) came back with a run in the bottom of the fifth. Jesus Gamero tripled down the left field line. After two outs, Yury Santana scored Gamero with a single to bring the Brooks to within a run at 3-2.

Vermont starter Ricky Shelton (1-1) earned the win.

Brooklyn 5
August 7 at Mahoning Valley

After the 410-mile bus trip from Keyspan Park, Brooklyn took a 4-0 lead in an afternoon game in Niles, Ohio. But the Cyclones lost the lead and then the game to the Scrappers.

Brooklyn scored three runs in the second. Nick Evans reached second on



Cyclones shortstop Ivan Naccarata gets sliding Expo John Poppert at second base while attempting to turn a double play Saturday.

an error on a fly ball to right fielder Chad Langworth. Jesus Gamero singled and stole second. After Caleb Stewart struck out, Pacheco stole third for his 19th stolen base of the season. Nick Evans reached first on an error by Kevin Kouzmanoff, the Scrappers third baseman, and Pacheco scored.

The Scrappers (22-24) halved the Brooklyn lead in the bottom of the third on a two-run double by Jose Contranza.

Mahoning Valley tied the

game at 4-4 in the sixth. Chad Longworth singled and moved to third on a single by Evandy De Leon. De Leon stole second and catcher Drew Butera's attempt to nail De Leon sailed into center field. De Leon went to third and Longworth scored on the play, being credited with a steal of home. Mike Woodson's sacrifice squeeze bunt scored De Leon.

The Scrappers scored the winning run in the eighth on a single by Drew Butera before a grounder to third

won.

moved Fornasiere to third. He scored on another ground ball giving Mahoning Valley a 5-4 lead.

Cyclones' reliever Jake Joseph (0-1) took the loss.

The Scrappers' Matt Haynes (1-0) got the win, with Matt Lobreg pitching a scoreless ninth for the save.

Brooklyn 6
Mahoning Valley 2

August 9 at Mahoning Valley
The Cyclones flashed some late-inning lightning as they hit a home run in each of the last three innings to defeat the Scrappers.

Mahoning Valley (22-25) scored first on a second inning solo homer by Omar Casillas.

The Brooks (26-20) tied the score on Josh Petersen's bases-empty blast in the seventh.

Mahoning Valley regained the lead in the bottom of the seventh on a Casillas single and an RBI double by Derrick Peterson.

The Cyclones increase the lead to 4-2 lead in the eighth on a single by Ivan Naccarata, a walk to Joe Holden and a three-run homer by Jonel Pacheco.

Brooklyn scored the final runs of the game in the ninth on another solo homer by Petersen, and an RBI single by Drew Butera to score Jon Malo, who had reached second on a two-base error.

Reliever Albert Vargas (1-1) took the loss for the Scrappers. For the Cyclones, Kevin Tomasiewicz started and allowed one run in five innings, and Sal Aguilar (3-0) pitched the final four innings to get the win.

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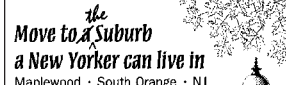
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Senior Rent Exemption is expanded



Mayor Michael Bloomberg with SCRIE bill co-sponsors Vincent Gentile and Gale Brewer at City Hall Tuesday.

By Ajla Grozdanic

For The Brooklyn Papers

Mayor Michael Bloomberg this week signed into law legislation that will make more senior citizens eligible for exemptions from rent increases.

The measure, one of whose primary sponsors was Bay Ridge Councilman Vincent Gentile, increases the eligibility under the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program, designed to ensure that elderly renters with fixed incomes are not spending more than a third of their total household income on rent.

Gentile was on hand Tuesday at City Hall for the bill signing, along with some of the bill's co-sponsors.

The SCRIE bill was passed by the City Council on July 27 by an overwhelming 44-0 vote. The law will go into effect immediately.

"I am very proud to sponsor this bill, because I believe that, as a society, it should be our highest priority to help out elderly people," said Gentile. "No body should be forced to move from their apartment after living there for many years, and this new law will help many seniors stay where they are, and where they desire to stay."

This year, in order to qualify

for the SCRIE program, the new law, retroactive from July 1, will raise the maximum household income allowed for tenants 62 and older who reside in a rent-controlled, rent-stabilized or rent-regulated apartment and spend one-third of their income on rent, from the current \$24,000 to \$25,000. The maximum eligible income will continue to be raised by \$1,000 each year over a five-year period, capping at \$29,000 in 2009.

The SCRIE program, which originated in the 1970s, currently exempts 45,000 eligible seniors from rent increases equaling one-third of their total household income. As part of the program, the landlord receives a real estate tax abatement in the amount of the rent forgiven, in order to balance the financial loss. The legislation, the council estimates, will cost the city about \$13.8 million over the next five years.

"Other than paying for prescription drugs, one of the toughest challenges for senior citizens on a fixed income is paying the rent," Gentile said. "We'll make more and more senior citizens eligible over the years."

The next step, since many seniors are unaware of the program and its benefits, is to advertise it, the councilman said.

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Engagement & Wedding Announcements

ENGAGEMENTS

Cepelak - Henkel

Jessica Cepelak, 23, and Thomas Henkel, 24, of Sunset Park, plan to be married on Oct. 28, 2006 in Brooklyn. The couple runs a Web site about the borough, www.digitalbrooklyn.com, and are committed to using as many Brooklyn vendors as possible in their wedding plans.

How did you meet?

The bride-to-be says: "We met while Thomas was working as the advertising di-

Rivera - Bryan

Evelyn Rivera, 29, and Andre Bryan, 27, plan to be married on Oct. 15, at the New Jerusalem Pentecostal Church in Haverstraw, N.Y., which is near many of the bride's relatives.

The bride-to-be's parents are Wilfredo and Aurelia Rivera of Brownsville. She is a graduate of William H. Maxwell High School in East New York, and is now a student.

The groom-to-be is the son of Norma Dean Smith, of Virginia, and Steiton Bryan, of Baisley Park, Queens. He attended Jonathan Grant High School in Jamaica, and now works for HSBC Bank.

Rivera and Bryan met in 1998 while they were both working at Chase Manhattan Bank. They were engaged in September 2004.

Who proposed, and how?

Says Rivera: "Andre proposed to me in Battery Park, which is where we used to go every day after work. He started reminiscing about the nice times we had there. Then, right in the middle of the park, he got down on one knee and told me he couldn't see his life without me."

"I was so surprised, it took me a minute to respond. When he took out the ring, all I could say was, 'Oh, my God!' Everyone in the park was looking at us."

Concerns about the wedding:

Says Rivera: "I'm Hispanic, and he's Jamaican, and we're working on melding some of our ethnic traditions together. In Jamaica, the groom's mother bakes what is called the black cake, made with rum, raisins and walnuts. Each guest takes home a piece of this cake; it's a very important tradition. And after the wedding ceremony is completed, we need to jump over a broom, in front of the altar, so all the guests can see."

"For me, the traditions are mainly about the food. We're having rice and peas.

baked pork shoulder and potato salad, foods you'd find at a traditional wedding in virtually any Hispanic country. For us, the cake is not a big deal."

WEDDINGS

Heimann - Markham

Stephanie Ann Heimann, 36, and Walter Langan Markham, 39, were married June 25, 2005, at the Pavilion on the boardwalk in Aven-by-the-Sea, N.J. The Rev. Barry Klesel, humanist celebrant, officiated. The reception was held at the Markham family beach house in the same town.

The bride is the daughter of Richard and Lou Heimann of Mission Viejo, Calif. She grew up in Boston, London and Saint Louis, graduating from Villa Duchesne High School in Saint Louis in 1987, and from the University of Arizona, in 1991. She is presently employed by Luxury Spafinder Magazine, in Manhattan.

The groom is the son of Suzanne and Walter Markham Sr., of Englewood, N.J. He grew up in Englewood, graduating from Duane Morrow High School in 1984 and attaining his master's degree in the Chicago Art Institute in 1999.

"For me, the traditions are mainly about the food. We're having rice and peas.

The couple lives in Park Slope.

About the wedding

The bride says: "We had friends and family who traveled from London, Paris, Kathmandu, Taipei, and every part of the USA. Many of the guests did impromptu performances during the eight-hour, outdoor reception. We brought our DJ from Brooklyn, who spins at Long Tan [a Thai restaurant in Park Slope], to make sure the music would be great!"

Who proposed, and how?

The bride says: "When we decided it was time to get an engagement ring, we walked around the block and found a spectacular ring at Bob & Judi's Collectibles, on Fifth Avenue at Union Street. And I bought him a set of vintage beer mugs, so everybody left the store happy."



How did you meet?

The bride says: "We met after Sept. 11, both working at a grassroots exhibit called 'The September 11 Photo Project' in SoHo. Walter was the curator, and I edited the photography into a book for Harper Collins. In August 2002, we moved in together on St. John's Place, where we found nirvana."

Visit www.TheBrooklynBride.com to submit your wedding or engagement announcement. Announcements are run on a space available basis. Our next issue is Sept. 17.

rector for Caroline's [comedy club] on Broadway. (My roommate was working there at the time.) We soon moved in together in Sunset Park, and have lived in Brooklyn for three years now."

Who proposed, and how?

The bride-to-be says: "Tom proposed while we were vacationing in New Orleans, over free muscles! We do not know exactly where we will be getting married yet, but we do know that it will be in Brooklyn. We are hoping for Oct. 28, 2006 as the wedding date, depending on location availability."

And the winners are...

Dyker Heights natives planning April wedding

Diana DiMatteo and Matthew Barbagallo are the July winners of The Brooklyn Bride cruise-a-month giveaway, sponsored by Michael C. Fina.

The couple plans to marry on April 22, 2006, at St. Ephrem's Church in Dyker Heights, followed by a reception at the Riviera catering hall in Coney Island. Father Buchanan of St. Ephrem's will officiate.

DiMatteo, 29, of Park Slope is the daughter of Mary and Antonio DiMatteo. The bride is a second-grade teacher at PS 160, on 51st Street at Fort Hamilton Parkway, and the 30-year-old Dyker Heights groom, son of Joy Barbagallo, is a custodian at PS 131, on 43rd Street at Fort Hamilton Parkway.

How did you meet?

Says Barbagallo: "We grew up together in Dyker Heights. We met when we

were about 8-years-old. There were five of us that played whiffle ball and rode bikes around the neighborhood. Diana was the only girl. It turns out she had a crush on me all that time. All the other kids knew it but me! We lost contact [after high school] for five or six years."

"Then I saw her car at a school near mine, and left an anonymous note on the windshield: 'If you'd like to get together with an old friend, call me.' Mr. M."

We started dating at that point, and got engaged in August 2004."

Who proposed, and how?

Says Barbagallo: "I wrote her a poem and gave it to her with a bouquet of white roses. In the middle was a blue daisy [her favorite color] with a blue ribbon hanging from it, and on the end of the ribbon was the engagement ring."



(From left) Diana DiMatteo and Matthew Barbagallo at the Bay Ridge Michael C. Fina with Store Manager Kristine Myrnes.

Concerns about the wedding?

Says DiMatteo: "We had been concerned about the honeymoon, but now we don't have to worry about that anymore! Taking my time really helped. I wasn't a bachelorette."

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2) No purchase necessary to enter or win. Contest information and rules are published in The Brooklyn Papers, which are free newspapers, and are online at www.TheBrooklynBride.com. By submitting an entry, contest participants agree to be bound by all of the contest rules.

3) The deadline for all entries is Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005. Entries submitted by mail must be in the office of The Brooklyn Papers, and entries submitted online must be received from the designated email box, not later Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005. The mailing address: August Contest, The Brooklyn Bride, c/o The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Entries may not be personally delivered to the offices of The Brooklyn Papers.

4) The Brooklyn Papers is not responsible for late, lost, damaged or misdirected mail or courier deliveries or e-mail.

5) The winner will be notified by phone, e-mail or mail on or before Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2005.

6) The winner will have three (3) days after notification is sent by The Brooklyn Papers

to claim the prize by completing, signing and returning an affidavit of eligibility and a Publicity Release; otherwise, an alternate winner will be selected.

7) At a time scheduled by The Brooklyn Papers, the winner must pick up the cruise certificate at a location designated by The Brooklyn Papers and pose for a photograph that may be published by The Brooklyn Papers in any media. The photograph and caption and any promotional information written by The Brooklyn Papers staff may be used in any media and in any manner—including but not limited to editorial, promotional and advertising use—at the sole discretion of The Brooklyn Papers.

8) In order for a winner to claim a prize, The Brooklyn Papers may require the winner to produce a valid Social Security number and photo identification including at least one of the following: driver's license, state-issued photo ID or a current passport.

9) The contest is open to qualified entrants who are getting married by December 2007 or have been married since Jan. 1, 2005. The winner will be required to provide proof of marriage (copy of wedding certificate) or an affidavit affirming an engagement to be married.

10) All entries become the sole property of The Brooklyn Papers, which may publish the winner's name in print, online or in any other media without additional permission and without compensation. Entries may be

edited and used in any manner deemed appropriate by The Brooklyn Papers.

11) Employees, vendors and family members of The Brooklyn Papers, and Mini Vacations Inc., are ineligible to win.

12) The Brooklyn Papers and Michael C. Fina are not responsible or liable in any way for any failure on the part of Mini Vacations Inc. Cruise certificates may not be exchanged for cash value.

13) The winner will receive a certificate valid for a 7-night cruise for two adults (double occupancy required). Accommodations are an entry-level cabin. Upgrades to outstanding ocean view or balconies are available for a surcharge.

14) To be eligible for this offer, passengers must be 21 years of age or older with a valid identification and a major credit card. United States travelers need proof of citizenship, including a valid Passport, and photo ID; resident aliens need an Alien Resident Card; alien travelers need a valid U.S. Multiple Re-entry Visa; resident aliens and aliens must contact the appropriate consulate to inquire about necessary travel documentation.

15) To validate one cruise certificate, the winner must complete the registration validation form and return a U.S. Mail package to the activation date shown on the registration validation form. The offer expires 18 months from the activation date and all travel must be completed by that date.

16) All reservation requirements in the cruise certificate must be met. A minimum of 90 days advance notice is required to process a reservation request. From charges, government taxes and applicable processing fees must be received immediately once a request has been made for a sailing date.

17) Cruise ships depart from either Miami, Florida; Tampa, Florida; San Juan, Puerto Rico; or Los Angeles, California. Airline tickets, airport transfers and miscellaneous expenses are not included. This offer is for the cruise only.

18) Selected sailings are available on a year-round basis, with a surcharge per person for peak season or holiday sailings.

19) Only one travel offer per household may be used in an 18-month period. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotional travel package.

20) The winner should not leave for the cruise until receiving written confirmation. All cruises are booked according to the availability of Mini Vacations Inc.'s fleet, subject to change.

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25) All federal, state and local laws apply and the payment of all taxes is the sole responsibility of the winner. This contest is void where prohibited by law.

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Preserve that gown

Turn your wedding dress into an heirloom with a reliable cleaner and proper storage

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Bride Editor

In all the excitement of planning a wedding and honeymoon, bridal gown preservation might not enter a bride's mind until it is too late.

Wedding gowns — smudged with grime from the dance floor and spotted with champagne — can't be left in a heap in the corner. If you want to keep your wedding dress in good condition for years to come, it needs to be treated differently than other garments that are whisked off to the dry-cleaners after they're worn.

"Just dry-cleaning alone may not necessarily prevent the fabric from yellowing, if it's not properly packaged," said Ken Kinzer, of Bridgestone Cleaners in Boerum Hill. There are things in the atmosphere that can contribute to the deterioration of a dress over time, said Kinzer, who has been preserving wedding gowns since 1987.

And when it comes to removing stains from a wedding gown, it's vital to get it to the cleaners sooner, rather than later.

"I would bring it in as soon as she's back from honeymoon," said Kinzer.

"Most brides put it off, and put it in a closet in a plastic bag. This time of year, with the moisture in the air in an apartment, it will build up inside the bag, drip onto the dress, and rust the dress. Heat and time will set stains."

That said, Kinzer, who's on the board of directors of the National Cleaners Association International, does not advise attempting any stain removal on your own.

"Something off the shelf could pull color off a white garment," said Kinzer. "It's dyed white; that's not the natural color of the fiber. Putting a bleaching agent on it could turn the fabric flaxen or yellow."

Brides should be careful to interview prospective cleaners before trusting their gown with them.

If you go to a dry-cleaner, ask about their experience working with wedding gowns or consider going to a gown preservationist with a noted track record. Kenneth Gluck, of Worldwide Gown Cleaning and Preservation, in Sheepshead Bay, oversees a plant that only cleans high-end evening wear and wedding gowns.

"We have employees and technicians, with 20 to 30 years experience, that only do wedding gown cleaning and restoration with special equipment," said Gluck. "The work is done mostly by hand."

There are a variety of ways to clean wedding gowns, from wet-cleaning to milder, petroleum-based solvents, so go to a cleaner who knows the options so they can pick the one that's best for your dress.

Kinzer said he is a certified wet- and dry-cleaner, and his plant uses eco-friendly, non-hazardous chemicals.

Certain stains will only come out with dry-cleaning and other wet-clean-



Expert care: Kenneth Gluck, pictured with gowns waiting to be cleaned and preserved at his plant, Worldwide Gown Cleaning and Preservation, in Sheepshead Bay. (At left) Worldwide's acid-free storage box.

ing," said Kinzer, who personally inspects each gown along with his spotting manager. He asks that a bride sign a certificate allowing testing of the garment's fabric and beading before commencing with the work.

"Some beads will melt from the inside out if you don't test them," said Kinzer. "A lot of ornament work is put on after a manufacturer puts on a care label which says it's safe to dry-clean. They may not be aware of the beading applied afterwards. You have to know how to test."

Gluck said his technicians conduct a free garment analysis before calling the client and explaining their course of action and the cost of the services.

After the dress has been cleaned, the vendor should place the gown in protective packaging such as acid-free



Worldwide Gown Cleaning and Preservation spotting technician Efrain Negron at work.

tissue paper in an acid-free paperboard box. Kinzer's company also offers the option of an untreated fabric storage bag.

When the preserved gown is brought home, it is important to keep it in a location protected from light or moisture.

Kinzer and Gluck guarantee the gowns they process for life — as long as the bride stores them in the sealed container and protects them from water damage.

"But if, God forbid, there is a flood, we can restore it," said Gluck, adding, "Even antique gowns and veils that come in as brown as can be."

Many cleaners recommend putting the gown under your bed — not an attic or basement — because it's the most comfortable room in the apartment, not hot or humid.

"You don't want to vacuum seal the

gown," said Gluck. "There's a big misconception about that. It will seal in moisture, which is OK for a piece of meat going in your freezer, but not for a wedding gown that needs air to circulate properly so it doesn't stain or oxidize over time."

Gluck said he doesn't encourage handling the dress after it has been cleaned, either.

"Natural oils from your hands will come off on the dress," he explained. "We literally handle them with gloves."

The pricing on gown preservation can vary wildly, but Kinzer says he is aware of a cleaner who offers to do gown preservation at a very low price.

"You're paying for quality of service and attention to detail. It's not possible to charge a ridiculously low price," he said, unless the vendor isn't doing a thorough job.

"You may be covered with insurance, but you can't replace the feelings," said Kinzer. "I'm not into the blame game, but into giving the best possible garment to the customers."

Important questions to ask the cleaners

Do they process the gown on site or do they ship it out?

Do you have to sign a release absolving them of damage to the gown? (If so, walk away!)

For how many years is the preservation guaranteed?

Will you be reimbursed if the gown is damaged after a certain number of years? Will they refund the preservation cost or replacement value?

Is the warranty void if you open the cleaner's preservation box? If so, can you inspect the gown before it's boxed?

If you want to put other mementos in the box with your dress, such as shoes or an invitation, do they have recommendations on how to package those items so they don't damage the dress?

(For example, putting your wedding invitation in an acid-free envelope.)



Worldwide Gown Cleaning and Preservation spotting technician Efrain Negron at work.

Fits to a tee

Among the handmade apparel at Radek Szczesny's new Williamsburg boutique-gallery, featuring fashion, accessories, furniture and music, is The Wedding Tee (\$290), a white T-shirt embellished with pieces of lace, including the briefest of trains on the back.

Designed by Bushwick's Tim Dubitsky and Bradley Varner, of Brooklyn Heights, the tee was initially designed for same-sex marriages, Dubitsky told The Brooklyn Bride.

"We accept the responsibility of being cultural conversationalists," said Dubitsky about the recent media attention given to legalizing gay marriage. "But we don't want to be exclusive, coming from the other side. So this shirt could be worn by the wedding party, or just the guest alone or a bridesmaid. Everybody wants to look as good as the bride."

Szczesny, whose store carries most of the designers' debut collection of men's clothing, said he loves the handmade quality of The Wedding Tee, and that the duo are "stretching a lot of limits" including naming their collection, [] — that's not a typo.

"The Wedding Tee speaks to the casual trend taking over things," said Dubitsky. "It's still dressy and loud, yet casual. It fits into a range of wedding settings, from casual to formal. It's a bit political, but all about the celebration."

"If this is the shirt that the wedding



party wears to the rehearsal dinner, they wouldn't overshadow the bride, and looking down the table, it will look like a big, exploded wedding dress."

Maiden, Brooklyn is located at 252 Grand St. between Driggs Avenue and Reeling Street in Williamsburg. For store hours and more information, call (718) 384-1967 or visit www.maidenbrooklyn.com.

— Lisa J. Curtis

Dinnerware to-go

Designer Lorena Barrezaeta, 25, turns pre-conceived notions of formal dining on its head — her unconventional porcelain pieces, which she makes in a Williamsburg studio, are inspired by common takeout food containers.

"While I was at Parsons [School of Design], I saw a lot of waste in the trash can, because we would all get takeout for lunch," Barrezaeta told The Brooklyn Bride. "And I longed for a home-cooked meal. So I took these forms out of the garbage and appreciated the beauty of the machine quality of the form and imagined how it would look in porcelain — such a sterile, natural material. I thought it would be beautiful."

Barrezaeta uses molds based on those aluminum forms to make versatile pieces that can be used a number of ways.

"I encourage being a little more playful with your tableware," said the artist. The first plates, platters and cups that comprised her "Gourmet Collection" were white with 18-karat gold trim, but

recently she added porcelain pieces with color overlays — in salmon, celadon, tomato, bright yellow and more.

While Barrezaeta doesn't recommend putting her pieces in the microwave, they are dishwasher safe.

So now those containers that once delivered a quick meal and were discarded can be assembled into a formal table setting or employed as only-in-Brooklyn accent pieces that will add a bit of levity to your first dinner party as husband and wife.

The "Gourmet Collection" ranges in price from \$20-\$150. The pieces are available online at www.lorenabarrezaeta.com or at these Brooklyn stores: The Future Perfect, 115 N. Sixth St. at Berry Street in Williamsburg (718) 599-6278; Matter, 227 Fifth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 230-1150; and Spring Gallery, 126A Front St. at Pearl Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-1331.

— Lisa J. Curtis

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